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H.470

Introduced by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

Date:

Subject: Alcoholic beverages; miscellaneous amendments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend various provisions of Title 7 to replace the term “cider” with “hard cider”; increase the annual limit on fourth-class licenses from 10 to 20; and repeal the sunset of 7 V.S.A. § 230 (sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption).

10 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage laws

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 \* \* \* Hard Cider \* \* \*

13 Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

14 § 2. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this title:

16 \* \* \*

17 (44) ~~“Cider”~~ “Hard cider” means a vinous beverage, made a majority  
18 from the fermented natural sugar content of apples or pears, that contains an  
19 alcoholic content of not less than one percent or more than 16 percent by

1 volume at 60 degrees Fahrenheit. ~~“Cider”~~ “Hard cider” includes sweetened,  
2 flavored, and carbonated hard cider.

3 Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 228 is amended to read:

4 § 228. SAMPLER FLIGHTS

5 (a) The holder of a first-class license may serve a sampler flight of up to  
6 32 ounces in the aggregate of malt beverages or hard ciders to a single  
7 customer at one time.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

10 § 253. FESTIVAL PERMITS

11 \* \* \*

12 (d) The permit holder shall ensure the following:

13 \* \* \*

14 (2)(A) Malt beverages and hard ciders for sampling shall be offered in  
15 glasses that contain not more than 12 ounces with not more than 60 ounces  
16 served to any patron at one event.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 421 is amended to read:

19 § 421. TAX ON MALT AND VINOUS BEVERAGES

20 (a) Every packager and wholesale dealer shall pay to the Commissioner of  
21 Taxes:

1 (1) the sum of 26 and one-half cents per gallon for every gallon or its  
2 equivalent of:

3 \* \* \*

4 (B) hard ciders containing not more than seven percent of alcohol by  
5 volume at 60 degrees Fahrenheit sold by them to retailers in the State;

6 (2) the sum of 55 cents per gallon for each gallon of:

7 \* \* \*

8 (B) hard ciders containing more than seven percent of alcohol by  
9 volume at 60 degrees Fahrenheit sold by them to retailers in the State; and

10 \* \* \*

11 \* \* \* Fourth-Class Licenses \* \* \*

12 Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 204 is amended to read:

13 § 204. APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FEES FOR LICENSES AND  
14 PERMITS; DISPOSITION OF FEES

15 (a) The following fees shall be paid when applying for a new license or  
16 permit or to renew a license or permit:

17 \* \* \*

18 (9) For up to ~~ten~~ 20 fourth-class licenses, \$70.00.

19 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 224 is amended to read:

2 § 224. FOURTH-CLASS LICENSES

3 (a) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may grant up to a combined total of  
4 ~~ten~~ 20 fourth-class licenses to a manufacturer or rectifier that submits an  
5 application and the fee provided in section 204 of this title.

6 \* \* \*

7 \* \* \* Repeal of Sunset \* \* \*

8 Sec. 7. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 70, Sec. 7 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 7. ~~REPEAL~~

10 ~~7 V.S.A. § 230 is repealed on July 1, 2023. [Repealed.]~~

11 \* \* \* Study and Report \* \* \*

12 Sec. 8. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES;

13 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT STUDY AND REPORT

14 On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Health, in consultation  
15 with the Department of Liquor and Lottery, shall study and report on the public  
16 health impacts of the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption  
17 since the passage of 7 V.S.A. § 230 and within the context of existing alcohol  
18 regulations in Vermont. The Department of Health shall submit the written  
19 report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military  
20 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and

1     General Affairs. The Department of Health shall include with its findings any  
2     recommendations for legislative action.

3                                   \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

4     Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

5         (a) This section and Sec. 7 (repeal) shall take effect on passage.

6         (b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2023.