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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).

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage laws

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

* * * Hard Cider * * *

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

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(44) “~~Cider~~” “Hard cider” means a vinous beverage, made a majority from the fermented natural sugar content of apples or pears, that contains an 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
16 public health impacts of the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises
17 consumption since the passage of 7 V.S.A. § 230 and within the context of
18 existing alcohol regulations in Vermont. The Department of Health shall
19 submit the written report to the House Committee on Government Operations
20 and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development,

