

1 H.867

2 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing  
3 alcoholic beverages and the Board of Liquor and Lottery

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

5 \* \* \* Special Venue Serving Permit; Retail Establishments \* \* \*

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

7 § 2. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this title:

9 \* \* \*

10 (38) “Special venue serving permit” means a permit granted by the  
11 Division of Liquor Control permitting an art gallery, ~~bookstore~~ retail  
12 establishment, public library, or museum to conduct an event at which malt or  
13 vinous beverages, or both, are served by the glass to the public. As used in this  
14 section, “art gallery” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to  
15 exhibit or offer for sale works of art; ~~“bookstore” means a fixed establishment~~  
16 ~~whose primary purpose is to offer books for sale~~; “public library” has the same  
17 meaning as in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in  
18 27 V.S.A. § 1151. As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not  
19 include a Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term  
20 is defined in section 861 of this title.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 254 is amended to read:

2 § 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS

3 (a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant an art gallery, ~~bookstore~~  
4 retail establishment, public library, or museum a special venue serving permit  
5 if the applicant has:

6 \* \* \*

7 (c) A permit holder shall be subject to the provisions of this title and the  
8 rules of the Board regarding the service of alcoholic beverages. A permit  
9 holder shall be authorized to serve, but not sell, alcoholic beverages for not  
10 more than six hours and solely for consumption on the permitted premises.

11 \* \* \*

12 (e) An art gallery, retail establishment, public library, or museum may be  
13 issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

14 (f) As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a  
15 Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is  
16 defined in section 861 of this title.

17 \* \* \* 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits

18 for Retail Establishments \* \* \*

19 Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 254 is amended to read:

20 § 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS

1 (a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant an art gallery, ~~retail~~  
2 ~~establishment~~, public library, or museum a special venue serving permit if the  
3 applicant has:

4 \* \* \*

5 (e) An art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum may be  
6 issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

7 ~~(f) As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a~~  
8 ~~Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is~~  
9 ~~defined in section 861 of this title.~~

10 Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

11 § 2. DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this title:

13 \* \* \*

14 (38) “Special venue serving permit” means a permit granted by the  
15 Division of Liquor Control permitting an art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~,  
16 public library, or museum to conduct an event at which malt or vinous  
17 beverages, or both, are served by the glass to the public. As used in this  
18 section, “art gallery” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to  
19 exhibit or offer for sale works of art; “public library” has the same meaning as  
20 in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in 27 V.S.A.  
21 § 1151. ~~As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a~~

1 ~~Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is~~  
2 ~~defined in section 861 of this title.~~

3 \* \* \*

4 \* \* \* Sampling Event Permits \* \* \*

5 Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

6 § 253. SAMPLING EVENT PERMITS

7 \* \* \*

8 (e)(1) A sampling event permit holder may purchase invoiced volumes of  
9 malt beverages, vinous beverages, or ready-to-drink spirits beverages directly  
10 from a manufacturer, wholesale dealer, or packager licensed in Vermont or a  
11 manufacturer, wholesale dealer, or packager that holds a federal Basic Permit  
12 or Brewers Notice or evidence of licensure in a foreign country that is  
13 satisfactory to the Board.

14 \* \* \*

15 \* \* \* Special Event Permits \* \* \*

16 Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

17 § 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

18 \* \* \*

19 (c) A licensed manufacturer or rectifier may be issued not more than ~~10~~ 20  
20 special event permits for the same physical location in a calendar year.

1                                   \* \* \* Liquor and Lottery Annual Report \* \* \*

2       Sec. 7. 31 V.S.A. § 657 is amended to read:

3       § 657. REPORT OF THE ~~BOARD~~ DEPARTMENT

4           The ~~Board~~ Department of Liquor and Lottery shall make an annual report to  
5       the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before the 10th day of  
6       ~~January~~ March in each year. The report shall include an account of the  
7       Board's actions and the receipts derived under the provisions of this chapter,  
8       the practical effects of the application of the proceeds of the Lottery, and any  
9       recommendation for legislation that the Board deems advisable.

10                               \* \* \* Extension of Liquor Liability Insurance Requirement \* \* \*

11       Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 17, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

12       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

13           (a) This section and Secs. 1 and 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

14           (b) Sec. 2 shall take effect on July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

15                               \* \* \* Retail Master License Report \* \* \*

16       Sec. 9. RETAIL MASTER LICENSE; REPORT

17           On or before December 15, 2024, the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery  
18       shall report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and  
19       General Affairs and to the House Committee on Government Operations and  
20       Military Affairs regarding the creation of a retail master license that can be  
21       granted to a person that acts as the parent corporation for licensed retail dealers

1 or manufacturers that have merged and permits the license holder to provide  
2 unified payroll and administrative services for the licensed retail dealers or  
3 manufacturers. The report shall include a proposal for legislation to create the  
4 license and an appropriate license fee.

5 \* \* \* Tobacco Retail Audit \* \* \*

6 Sec. 10. TOBACCO RETAIL AUDIT; INTENT; REPORT

7 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that comprehensive data should  
8 be developed regarding the placement of beverage alcohol products in retail  
9 establishments to inform future public policy decisions by the General  
10 Assembly.

11 (b)(1) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Liquor and  
12 Lottery shall report to the House Committees on Government Operations and  
13 Military Affairs and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on  
14 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and  
15 Welfare regarding the results of the 2024 Tobacco Retail Audit.

16 (2) The report shall include detailed findings regarding the physical  
17 placement of beverage alcohol products within licensed retail establishments.

18 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

19 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

21 (b) Secs. 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

1            (c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.