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H.470

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

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

§ 228. SAMPLER FLIGHTS

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

\* \* \*

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

§ 253. FESTIVAL PERMITS

1 \* \* \*

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

3 \* \* \*

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

7 \* \* \*

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

9 § 421. TAX ON MALT AND VINOUS BEVERAGES

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

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

14 \* \* \*

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

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

18 \* \* \*

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

21 \* \* \*



1                                   \* \* \* Study and Report \* \* \*

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

3                                   PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT STUDY AND REPORT

4           On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Health, in consultation  
5           with the Department of Liquor and Lottery, shall study and report on the public  
6           health impacts of the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption  
7           since the passage of 7 V.S.A. § 230 and within the context of existing alcohol  
8           regulations in Vermont. The Department of Health shall submit the written  
9           report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military  
10           Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and  
11           General Affairs. The Department of Health shall include with its findings any  
12           recommendations for legislative action.

13                                   \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

14           Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

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