

1 H.655

2 Introduced by Representatives Boyden of Cambridge and Birong of Vergennes

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Alcoholic beverages, cannabis, and tobacco; Board of Liquor and

6 Lottery; Division of Liquor Control; licensing; sale of alcoholic

7 beverages for off-premises consumption; special events permits; local

8 control commissioners

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend

10 various provisions of Title 7 to change the term length for members of the

11 Board of Liquor and Lottery from three years to four years, eliminate the

12 specific limitation on the hours of sale for licensees who sell alcoholic

13 beverages for off-premises consumption pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 230, state that

14 special events permits are subject to approval by the local control

15 commissioners in conformance with the definition of “special event permit” in

16 Title 7, eliminate language that requires an applicant for a solicitor’s license to

17 pay the license fee with a certified check, and remove the prospective 2026

18 repeal of the “retail establishment” provisions of the statutes governing special

19 venue serving permits.

20 An act relating to alcoholic beverages and the Board of Liquor and Lottery

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

2 Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 101 is amended to read:

3 § 101. COMPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT; COMMISSIONER OF

4 LIQUOR AND LOTTERY; BOARD OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY

5 * * *

6 (b)(1) The Board of Liquor and Lottery shall consist of five persons. Not
7 all members of the Board shall belong to the same political party.

8 (2)(A) With the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor shall
9 appoint the members of the Board for staggered ~~three-year~~ four-year terms.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 230 is amended to read:

12 § 230. SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF-PREMISES
13 CONSUMPTION

14 * * *

15 (c) ~~A licensee may sell alcoholic beverages pursuant to this section~~
16 ~~between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. [Repealed.]~~

17 * * *

18 Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

19 § 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

20 (a)(1) The Division of Liquor Control may issue a special event permit for
21 an event open to the public that has been approved by the local control

1 commissioners if the application is submitted to the Division of Liquor Control
2 with the fee provided in section 204 of this title at least five days prior to the
3 date of the event.

4 * * *

5 Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 275 is amended to read:

6 § 275. SOLICITOR'S LICENSE

7 (a) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may grant an individual a solicitor's
8 license if ~~he or she~~ the individual does all of the following:

9 * * *

10 (3) Pays the fee provided in section 204 of this title to the Division of
11 Liquor Control ~~by certified check made payable to the State of Vermont~~. The
12 ~~certified check payment~~ shall be returned to the applicant if the Board does not
13 grant ~~him or her~~ the individual a license under this section.

14 * * *

15 Sec. 5. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Secs. 3 and 4 are amended to read:

16 * * * 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits

17 for Retail Establishments * * *

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

19 ~~§ 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS~~

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. [Deleted.]

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 [Deleted.]

5 Sec. 6. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 11 is amended to read:

6 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

- 7 (a) This section and Sec. 5 shall take effect on passage.
- 8 (b) ~~Secs. 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.~~ [Deleted.]
- 9 (c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

10 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.