

1 H.921

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

3 Date:

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

5 Lottery; licensing; fourth-class licenses; manufacturers and rectifiers;

6 special events permits; special venue serving permits

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend
8 various provisions of Title 7 related to the Board of Liquor and Lottery, fourth-
9 class licenses, manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, special events permits,
10 and special venue serving permits.

11 An act relating to alcoholic beverages

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

13 * * * Term Length for Members of Board of Liquor and Lottery * * *

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

15 § 101. COMPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT; COMMISSIONER OF

16 LIQUOR AND LOTTERY; BOARD OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY

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

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between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. [Repealed.]~~

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* * * Conforming Revision; Local Control Requirements
in 7 V.S.A. § 252 * * *

Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

§ 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

(a)(1) The Division of Liquor Control may issue a special event permit for
an event open to the public that has been approved by the local control
commissioners if the application is submitted to the Division of Liquor Control
with the fee provided in section 204 of this title at least five days prior to the
date of the event.

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* * * Notice Period for Retail Tasting Permits * * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 255 is amended to read:

§ 255. RETAIL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TASTING PERMITS

(a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant a licensee a permit to
conduct an alcoholic beverage tasting event as provided in subsection (b) of
this section if:

1 (1) the licensee has submitted a written application in a form required
2 by the Commissioner and paid the fee provided in section 204 of this title at
3 least ~~five days~~ one business day prior to the date of the alcoholic beverage
4 tasting event; and

5 * * *

6 * * * Distribution by Malt Beverage Manufacturers; 2028 Sunset * * *

7 Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 271 is amended to read:

8 § 271. MANUFACTURER'S OR RECTIFIER'S LICENSE

9 * * *

10 (d)(1) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may grant to a licensed
11 manufacturer or rectifier a first-class license or a third-class license, or both,
12 permitting the licensee to sell alcoholic beverages to the public at an
13 establishment located at the manufacturer's or rectifier's licensed facility,
14 provided the manufacturer or rectifier owns or has direct control over that
15 establishment.

16 (2) A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages or vinous beverages may
17 operate up to two licensed establishments pursuant to this subsection that are
18 located at the licensed manufacturing facility or on property that is owned by
19 the licensee and is contiguous with the parcel of land on which the licensed
20 manufacturing facility is located, provided the manufacturer owns or has direct
21 control over both establishments.

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* * *

(g) A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages may distribute an annual total of not more than 3,000 barrels of the manufacturer's malt beverages directly to holders of first- or second-class licenses. *A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages shall retain copies of records of distribution and sales made pursuant to this subsection. Annually, on or before January 15, a licensed manufacturer shall report to the Division in a manner and form required by the Commissioner the total amount of malt beverages distributed pursuant to this subsection during the preceding 12 months.*

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~~Sec. 7. 7 V.S.A. § 271 is amended to read:~~

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~~§ 271. MANUFACTURER'S OR RECTIFIER'S LICENSE~~

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~~* * *~~

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~~(g) A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages may distribute an annual~~

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~~total of not more than 3,000 barrels of the manufacturer's malt beverages~~

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~~directly to holders of first- or second-class licenses. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

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* * * Removing Certified Check Requirement * * *

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Sec. 8. 7 V.S.A. § 275 is amended to read:

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§ 275. SOLICITOR'S LICENSE

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(a) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may grant an individual a solicitor's

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license if ~~he or she~~ the individual does all of the following:

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

* * *

* * * Deleting 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits for Retail
Establishments * * *

Sec. 9. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Secs. 3 and 4 are amended to read:

* * * 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits
for Retail Establishments * * *

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

~~§ 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS~~

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

* * *

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

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

** * * Caterer's License * * **

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

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

** * **

(5) "Caterer's license" means a license issued by the Board of Liquor and Lottery authorizing the holder of a first-class license or first- and third-class licenses to serve alcoholic beverages at a function located ~~on premises other than those occupied by a first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensee to sell alcoholic beverages pursuant to section 241 of this title.~~

** * **

Sec. 12. 7 V.S.A. § 241 is amended to read:

§ 241. CATERER'S LICENSE; COMMERCIAL CATERING LICENSE

(a) The Board of Liquor and Lottery may issue a caterer's license or a commercial catering license to a person who holds a first-class license or first- and third-class licenses. The holder of a caterer's license is authorized to serve alcoholic beverages at a function located on premises other than those occupied by another first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensee to sell

alcoholic beverages. The holder of a caterer's license may host not more than five functions per calendar year located on the license holder's own first-, first- and third-, or second-class licensed premises.

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* * * Effective Dates * * *

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Sec. ~~11~~13. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 9 ~~and 10 (deleting 2026 sunset of special venue serving permits for retail establishments)~~ *through 12* shall take effect on passage.

(b) ~~Sec. 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2028.~~ *[Deleted.]*

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(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.