

Introduced by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

Date:

Subject: Alcoholic beverages, cannabis, and tobacco

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

An act relating to alcoholic beverages

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

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

§ 101. COMPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT; COMMISSIONER OF  
LIQUOR AND LOTTERY; BOARD OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY

\* \* \*

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

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

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 224 is amended to read:

§ 224. FOURTH-CLASS LICENSES

\* \* \*

(b) At each licensed location, a fourth-class licensee may sell by the unopened container or distribute by the glass, with or without charge, alcoholic beverages manufactured by the licensee.

(1) A licensee may, for consumption at the licensed premises or location, distribute the following amounts of alcoholic beverages to a retail customer:

(A) at a farmer's market location, not more than:

(i) two ounces of malt beverages, vinous beverages, or ready-to-drink spirits beverages with a total of eight ounces; and

~~(B)(ii) no more than~~ one-quarter ounce of spirits or fortified wine with a total of one ounce; or

(B) at a tasting room and retail shop, not more than:

(i) an aggregate total of 16 ounces of malt beverages or hard cider;

(ii) an aggregate total of 12 ounces of vinous beverages or ready-to-drink spirits beverages; and

(iii) one-quarter ounce of spirits or fortified wine with a total of two ounces.

\* \* \*

(c)(1) At ~~only one~~ not more than 10 fourth-class license ~~location~~ locations, a licensed manufacturer or rectifier may sell by the unopened container or

1 distribute by the glass, with or without charge, alcoholic beverages produced  
2 by ~~no~~ not more than five additional manufacturers or rectifiers, provided these  
3 beverages are purchased on invoice from the manufacturer or rectifier.

4 (2) A manufacturer or rectifier may sell its product to ~~no more than five~~  
5 ~~additional~~ any Vermont manufacturers or rectifiers.

6 \* \* \*

7 Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 230 is amended to read:

8 § 230. SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF-PREMISES  
9 CONSUMPTION

10 \* \* \*

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

13 \* \* \*

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

15 § 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

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

21 \* \* \*

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

2 § 255. RETAIL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TASTING PERMITS

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

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

9 \* \* \*

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

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

12 \* \* \*

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

19 (2) A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages or vinous beverages may  
20 operate up to two licensed establishments pursuant to this subsection that are  
21 located at the licensed manufacturing facility or on property that is owned by

1 the licensee and is contiguous with the parcel of land on which the licensed  
2 manufacturing facility is located, provided the manufacturer owns or has direct  
3 control over both establishments.

4 \* \* \*

5 (g) A licensed manufacturer of malt beverages may distribute an annual  
6 total of not more than 5,000 barrels of the manufacturer's malt beverages  
7 directly to holders of first- or second-class licenses.

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

9 § 275. SOLICITOR'S LICENSE

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

12 \* \* \*

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

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 8. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Secs. 3 and 4 are amended to read:

19 \* \* \* 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits

20 for Retail Establishments \* \* \*

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

\*\*\*

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

## ~~§ 2. DEFINITIONS~~

    \*    \*    \*    

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1 ~~in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in 27 V.S.A.~~  
2 ~~§ 1151. As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a~~  
3 ~~Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is~~  
4 ~~defined in section 861 of this title.~~

5 ~~\* \* \*~~

6 [Deleted.]

7 Sec. 9. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 11 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

10 (b) ~~Secs. 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.~~ [Deleted.]

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

12 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES

13 (a) This section and Sec. 8 (deleting 2026 sunset of special venue serving  
14 permits for retail establishments) shall take effect on passage.

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