



2026 Alcohol Bill DSCV Legislative Priorities

Our 2026 Legislative Priorities include several minor language changes in existing statute to allow distillers to take advantage of a) cross promotion with other Vermont Manufacturers and b) tasting opportunities at 802 Agency Stores.

ITEM 1: Problem: Distillers can sell other VT alcohol products at only 1 of their Class 4 establishments.

As written Title 7 V.S.A. § 224, section(c)(1):

At only one fourth-class license location, a licensed manufacturer or rectifier may sell by the unopened container or distribute by the glass, with or without charge, alcoholic beverages produced by no more than five additional manufacturers or rectifiers, provided these beverages are purchased on invoice from the manufacturer or rectifier.

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

Full proposed change: At up to ten fourth-class license location, a licensed manufacturer or rectifier may sell by the unopened container or distribute by the glass, with or without charge, alcoholic beverages produced by any Vermont manufacturers or rectifiers, provided these beverages are purchased on invoice from the manufacturer or rectifier.

(2): Remove entirely OR change to A manufacturer or rectifier may sell its product to any Vermont manufacturers or rectifiers.

Summary:

- 1.) Change Title 7 V.S.A. § 224, section (c)(1) from “only one” to say “up to ten”
- 2.) Change Title 7 V.S.A. § 224, section (c)(1) from “no more than five additional” to say “any Vermont” (this expands the number of manufacturers while restricting to Vermont-based only)
- 3.) Change Title 7 V.S.A. § 224, section (c)(2) - either eliminate this line entirely, or change from “no more than five additional” to say “any Vermont”.

Notes: Distillers, like most businesses in Vermont, suffer from staffing shortages. Opening this provision to more Class 4 locations gives us the opportunity to be highlighted in other parts of the state by our friends and neighbors without having to staff an entirely new Class 4 establishment alone.

ITEM 2: Problem: Distillers cannot apply for an 802 Spirits Store Tasting permit if the opportunity arises less than 5 days from the event. The portal will not accept the application with less than 5 business days before the event.

As written 7 V.S.A. § 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) the licensee has submitted a written application in a form required by the Commissioner and paid the fee provided in section 204 of this title **at least five days prior** to the date of the alcoholic beverage tasting event; and (2) the Commissioner determines that the licensee is in good standing.

Full proposed change (a)(1): *the licensee has submitted a written application in a form required by the Commissioner and paid the fee provided in section 204 of this title **at least one business day** prior to the date of the alcoholic beverage tasting event;*

Summary:

1.) Change Title 7 V.S.A. § 255, section (a)(1) from “five days” to “one business day”

Notes: We are fully aware that there may be times when the department cannot accommodate the request on short notice, but at least we can get a permit application in the system. Often, last minute opportunities arrive because of schedule changes and cancellations.