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**Wendy Knight, Commissioner**

**TO:** House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs  
**FROM:** Wendy Knight, Commissioner, Department of Liquor and Lottery  
**DATE:** May 5, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** S. 131

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While the Department of Liquor and Lottery has not been asked to testify on S. 131, an act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the possession of firearms, I wanted to offer some clarification on the licensing processes of the Department.

The Senate-passed version of the bill includes a provision allowing an exemption for a firearm possessed by “the holder of the license for the premises, provided that person is not prohibited from possessing or carrying that weapon under any other federal, State, or local law.” It is exceedingly rare that the Department issues liquor licenses to individuals, as the liability for the establishment would then fall solely on that individual. In most cases, corporate structures such as Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) are the licensed entities.

We appreciate the Committee’s time and consideration and are available to advise should the Committee require further information.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Knight, Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery

