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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, Crowley, Ottiano, Ruggiero, and Walaska

Date Introduced: February 05, 2015

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 3-1-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 3-1 entitled "General  
2 Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **3-1-1. Definitions. --** As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

4           (1) "Beverage" means any liquid which either by itself or by mixture with any other  
5 liquid or liquids is or may become fit for human consumption as a drink and which contains five-  
6 tenths of one per cent (.5%) or more of alcohol by weight.

7           (2) "Club" means a corporation subject to the provisions of chapter 6 of title 7, owning,  
8 hiring, or leasing a building or space in a building of such extent and character as may be suitable  
9 and adequate for the reasonable and comfortable accommodation of its members, and whose  
10 affairs and management are conducted by a board of directors, executive committee or other  
11 similar body chosen by the members at a meeting held for that purpose, none of whose members,  
12 officers, agents, or employees are paid directly or indirectly any compensation by way of profit  
13 from the distribution or sale of beverages to the members of the club or to its guests beyond the  
14 amount of any reasonable salary or wages as may be fixed and voted each year by the directors or  
15 other governing body.

16           (3) "Department" means the department of business regulation.

17           (4) "Director" means the director of the department of business regulation.

18           (5) "Division of taxation" means the division of taxation of the department of  
19 administration.

1 (6) "Farmer-winery" means any plant or premise where wine is produced, rectified,  
2 blended or fortified from fruits, flowers, herbs or vegetables.

3 (7) "Import" means at one time or in one transaction to take or cause to be taken into this  
4 state from outside the state any malt beverage in excess of eight (8) gallons or any vinous  
5 beverage or any beverage consisting in whole or in part of alcohol produced by distillation in  
6 excess of three (3) gallons.

7 (8) "Intoxicating beverage" means a beverage which contains more than three and two-  
8 tenths percent (3.2%) of alcohol by weight.

9 (9) "Malt beverage" means any beverage which is usually produced at breweries, as  
10 distinguished from distilleries.

11 (10) "Nonintoxicating beverage" means a beverage which contains not more than three  
12 and two-tenths percent (3.2%) of alcohol by weight.

13 (11) "Powdered alcohol" means alcohol prepared for sale or other distribution in a dry  
14 powder or crystalline or encapsulated form for direct consumption or reconstitution.

15 ~~(11)~~(12) "Tavern" means any house where the principal business is the furnishing of food  
16 and sleeping accommodations.

17 ~~(12)~~(13) "Victualing house" means any shop or place where a substantial part of the  
18 business is the furnishing of food for consumption at the place where it is furnished.

19 ~~(13)~~(14) "Winegrower" means any person licensed to operate a farmer's winery under §  
20 3-6-1.1.

21 ~~(14)~~(15) "Wines" means all fermented alcoholic beverages made from fruits, flowers,  
22 herbs, or vegetables and containing not more than twenty-four percent (24%) of alcohol by  
23 volume at sixty degrees Fahrenheit (60 degrees F), except cider obtained by the alcohol  
24 fermentation of the juice of apples and containing not less than five tenths of one percent (.05%)  
25 or containing not more than six percent (6%), of alcohol by weight at sixty degrees Fahrenheit  
26 (60 degrees F) including but not limited to flavored, sparkling, or carbonated cider.

27 SECTION 2. Chapter 3-8 of the General Laws entitled "Regulation of Sales" is hereby  
28 amended by adding thereto the following section:

29 **3-8-17. Possession or sale of powdered alcohol prohibited. --** (a) It is unlawful for a  
30 person, firm, or corporation to use, offer for use, purchase, offer to purchase, sell, offer to sell, or  
31 possess powdered alcohol, subject to the provisions of § 3-11-5.

32 (b) This section shall not apply to the use of powdered alcohol for bona fide research  
33 purposes by: a health care provider that operates primarily for the purpose of conducting  
34 scientific research; a state institution; a private college or university; or a pharmaceutical or

1 [biotechnology company.](#)

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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1           This act would make the possession of powdered alcohol a crime punishable by a fine  
2 and/or imprisonment.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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