

2024 -- H 7203

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Corvese, Shanley, Craven, Knight, Dawson,
Finkelman, Noret, Serpa, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 17, 2024

Referred To: House Small Business

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3-7-4.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 3-7 entitled "Retail Licenses"

2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **3-7-4.1. Holders of retail Class A licenses permitted to conduct wine, beer, and**
4 **distilled spirit samplings inside licensed premises.**

5 Any holder of a Class A retail license shall be permitted to conduct at no charge to the
6 consumer, inside the premises of the licensee, sample tastings of wine (under 13% alcohol by
7 volume), beer (under 5.5% alcohol by volume), and distilled spirits available for purchase from the
8 licensee's outlet. These samples shall not exceed one-ounce servings of each wine, the number of
9 wines being limited to no more than four (4) products at any one tasting; and one-ounce servings
10 of each beer, with the number of beer samplings being limited to two (2) products at any one tasting;
11 and one-quarter-ounce servings (¼ oz.) of each distilled spirit, the number of distilled spirits being
12 limited to no more than two (2) products at any one tasting. Furthermore, wine, beer, and distilled
13 spirits samplings may not be conducted simultaneously on the same Class A licensed premise. Each
14 consumer shall be limited to no more than one sample tasting of each product. The licensee may
15 elect, once during the month of March, [once during the month of August](#), and once during the
16 month of November only, to serve unlimited samples of wine products available for purchase from
17 the licensee's outlet.

18 It shall be required that the licensee provide, at no charge to the consumer, food samplings
19 to be included with the tasting of all wine and beer. Those food samplings not consumed during the

1 tasting shall not thereafter be offered for sale.

2 The licensee shall control, without wholesaler or supplier participation, the dispensing of
3 all samples to prospective customers. The licensee may not hold more than ten (10) tasting events
4 in any thirty-day (30) period. It shall be required that the licensee provide to the dispenser(s) of
5 said wine and beer samples, training in the service of alcoholic beverages by a recognized training
6 provider of alcoholic beverage service.

7 Sampling events may not be promoted except on the licensed premises. It shall be unlawful
8 for any wholesaler, manufacturer, supplier, or any other person or entity to participate or provide
9 anything or any service of value on account of or in conjunction with any such sampling. It shall
10 be unlawful for any tasting, or combination of tastings, to exceed more than four (4) hours from
11 start to finish and must be conducted during the normal hours of business.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

- 1 This act would add the month of August to the dates a Class A retail alcoholic beverage
- 2 establishment can offer unlimited free samples of wine, beer and distilled spirits products.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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