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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Introduced By: Representative Timothy A. Williamson

Date Introduced: April 12, 2010

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 3-7 of the General Laws entitled "Retail Licenses" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **3-7-4.2. Licensed manufacturers, wholesalers or its agents of distilled spirits**
4 **permitted to conduct in-store consumer tasting events, which are intended to be a**
5 **presentation of alcoholic products to the public for the purpose of disseminating product**
6 **information and education.** – Any licensed manufacturer, wholesaler or its agent of distilled
7 spirits shall be permitted to conduct in-store consumer tasting events, which are intended to be a
8 presentation of alcoholic products to the public for the purpose of disseminating product
9 information and education. Said distilled spirit samplings shall not exceed one-quarter (1/4)
10 ounce in size, the number of samplings being limited to three (3) products during any one tasting
11 per consumer. Each consumer shall be limited to no more than one sample tasting of each
12 product. All products being presented for sampling must be presently available for purchase at
13 said outlet. Tastings shall be conducted in compliance with all the requirements of the department
14 of business regulation division of commercial licensing (“department”), any applicable liquor
15 control regulations, and any license conditions. Violations of these requirements may result in the
16 “department’s” denial of future applications to conduct in-store tasting events and/or suspension
17 or revocation of the manufacturer’s license.

18 Prior to the in-store tasting event, sponsors must demonstrate evidence of liability
19 insurance at coverage levels acceptable to the “department.” No alcoholic beverages shall be

1 served to persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years, or to persons who are visibly
2 intoxicated. Only one sponsor shall conduct an in-store tasting event at any one time. Sponsor
3 must obtain a permit from the “department” prior to scheduling any tasting event at a fee of fifty
4 dollars (\$50.00) annually. Tasting events shall be limited to a designated area of the store with a
5 maximum of four (4) products per in-store tasting event. No more than eight (8) customers shall
6 be served at any one time. The duration of any in-store tasting event is limited to a maximum of
7 four (4) consecutive hours. The number of tastings allowed for each store will be limited to ten
8 (10) in any thirty (30) day period.

9 Products used during the in-store tasting event must be procured by the sponsor in
10 accordance with the “department’s” requirements. Distilled spirits used during an in-store tasting
11 event must be dispensed from original containers prepared by the manufacturer with labels visible
12 to the consumer. All cases and bottles of distilled spirits shall be marked by the sponsor stating
13 “sampling only, not for resale.” The sponsor shall provide all supplies and equipment associated
14 with the in-store tasting event, including, but not limited to, dump buckets, water glasses, tasting
15 containers and tables. At the conclusion of any in-store tasting event of distilled spirits, sponsors
16 shall remove the alcohol containers used in the tasting from the retail store. Unused product,
17 bottles or containers shall not be furnished to employees of the retail store.

18 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 allow any licensed manufacturer, wholesaler or its agent of distilled spirits
2 to be permitted to conduct in-store consumer tasting events, which are intended to be a
3 presentation of alcoholic products to the public for the purpose of disseminating product
4 information and education. There would be certain regulations and requirements to be complied
5 with when conducting these in-store consumer tasting events.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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