

SENATE BILL 121

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 57,
relative to alcoholic and malt beverages.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 57, Chapter 3, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

57-3-2__.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an additional class of licenses allowing the sale of wine at retail food stores is created. These licenses shall be known as "wine at retail food store licenses" and shall be issued by the alcoholic beverage commission; provided that licenses shall only be issued to a retail food store located in a county or municipality that has authorized the sale of alcoholic beverages by local option election. Sections 57-3-204(b)(3) and (4) and 57-3-404(e)(1) and (f) shall not apply to licenses issued pursuant to this section provided that any individual applicant applying for a license is twenty-one (21) years of age or older and has not been convicted of a felony subject to § 57-3-210(c); and provided further the commission may issue such a license to a corporation, limited liability company or partnership doing business in this state. The annual license fee paid by a retailer licensed under this part shall apply to the wine at food store license.

(b) For purposes of this section "retail food store" means an establishment where food and food products, alone or in combination with grocery items typically found in grocery or convenience stores, are offered to the consumer and intended primarily for off-premises consumption. "Retail food store" does not include:

(1) Roadside markets that offer only fresh foods and vegetables;

(2) Food and beverage vending machines; or

(3) Establishments selling only tobacco, beer or gasoline.

(c) Laws applicable to the issuance, renewal, suspension, and termination of retailer's licenses issued pursuant to this part and the regulation of and operation by such license holders shall apply in the same manner to wine at food store licenses and license holders.

(d) A wine at retail food store license holder engaging in the business regulated hereunder or any employee thereof shall not make or permit to be made any sales to minors. Prior to making a sale of wine for off-premise consumption, the adult consumer must present to the license holder, or any employee of the license holder, a valid, government-issued document, such as a driver's license, or other form of identification deemed acceptable to the license holder, that includes the photograph and birth date of the adult consumer attempting to make a wine purchase. Persons exempt under state law from the requirement of having a photo identification shall present identification that is acceptable to the license holder. The license holder or employee shall make a determination from the information presented whether the purchaser is an adult. In addition to the prohibition of making a sale to a minor, no sale of wine for off-premises consumption shall be made to a person who does not present such a document or other form of identification to the license holder or any employee of the license holder; however, it is an exception to any criminal punishment or adverse administrative action, including license suspension or revocation, as provided for a violation of this section if the sale was made to a person who is or reasonably appears to be over fifty (50) years of age and who failed to present an acceptable form of identification.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-404(b), is amended by deleting the language “a licensed retailer,” and by substituting instead “a licensed retailer or retail food store licensed to sell wine pursuant to Section 1 of this act.”.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-404(e), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision thereto:

(3) A licensee shall be permitted to sell the following items in addition to alcoholic beverages:

- (A) Ice;
- (B) Soft drinks;
- (C) Mixes normally associated with alcoholic beverages;
- (D) Glassware; and
- (E) Corkscrews and other wine-related items.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 57, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

57-1-1___. As used in §§ 57-1-110, 57-3-204(c), 57-3-304, 57-3-406 (b)-(h), and 57-4-302, the term “licensed retailer” or “retailer” shall be construed to include and apply to retail food stores which have been issued a wine at food store license.

SECTION 5. For purposes of licensing, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it and for all other purposes, including the actual sales of wine at retail food stores, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.