

1 H.867

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

3 Date:

4 Subject: Alcoholic beverages; lottery; miscellaneous amendments

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize  
6 retail establishments to acquire special venue serving permits; allow a  
7 sampling event permit holder to purchase invoiced volumes of alcoholic  
8 beverages from wholesale dealers; increase the limit on special event permits  
9 that may be acquired by an individual licensee from 10 to 20; amend  
10 provisions related to the annual report concerning the State Lottery; extend the  
11 effective date for required liquor liability insurance to July 1, 2026; and to  
12 establish a retail master license for parent corporations that are formed for  
13 purposes of merging licensed retail dealers or manufacturers.

14 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing  
15 alcoholic beverages and the Board of Liquor and Lottery

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 \* \* \* Special Venue Serving Permit; Retail Establishments \* \* \*

18 Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

19 § 2. DEFINITIONS

20 As used in this title:

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\* \* \*

(38) “Special venue serving permit” means a permit granted by the Division of Liquor Control permitting an art gallery, ~~bookstore~~ retail establishment, public library, or museum to conduct an event at which malt or vinous beverages, or both, are served by the glass to the public. As used in this section, “art gallery” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to exhibit or offer for sale works of art; ~~“bookstore” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to offer books for sale;~~ “public library” has the same meaning as in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in 27 V.S.A. § 1151.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 254 is amended to read:

§ 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS

(a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant an art gallery, ~~bookstore~~ retail establishment, public library, or museum a special venue serving permit if the applicant has:

\* \* \*

(c) A permit holder shall be subject to the provisions of this title and the rules of the Board regarding the service of alcoholic beverages. A permit holder shall be authorized to serve, but not sell, alcoholic beverages for not more than six hours and solely for consumption on the permitted premises.

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(e) An art gallery, retail establishment, public library, or museum may be issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

\* \* \* 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits  
for Retail Establishments \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 254 is amended to read:

§ 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS

(a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant an art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum a special venue serving permit if the applicant has:

\* \* \*

(e) An art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum may be issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

\* \* \* Sampling Event Permits \* \* \*

Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

\* \* \*

(38) “Special venue serving permit” means a permit granted by the Division of Liquor Control permitting an art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum to conduct an event at which malt or vinous

1 beverages, or both, are served by the glass to the public. As used in this  
2 section, “art gallery” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to  
3 exhibit or offer for sale works of art; “public library” has the same meaning as  
4 in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in 27 V.S.A.  
5 § 1151.

6 \* \* \*

7 Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

8 § 253. SAMPLING EVENT PERMITS

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10 (e)(1) A sampling event permit holder may purchase invoiced volumes of  
11 malt beverages, vinous beverages, or ready-to-drink spirits beverages directly  
12 from a manufacturer, wholesale dealer, or packager licensed in Vermont or a  
13 manufacturer, wholesale dealer, or packager that holds a federal Basic Permit  
14 or Brewers Notice or evidence of licensure in a foreign country that is  
15 satisfactory to the Board.

16 \* \* \*

17 \* \* \* Special Event Permits \* \* \*

18 Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

19 § 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

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1 (c) A licensed manufacturer or rectifier may be issued not more than ~~10~~ 20  
2 special event permits for the same physical location in a calendar year.

3 \* \* \* Liquor and Lottery Annual Report \* \* \*

4 Sec. 7. 31 V.S.A. § 657 is amended to read:

5 § 657. REPORT OF THE ~~BOARD~~ DEPARTMENT

6 The ~~Board~~ Department of Liquor and Lottery shall make an annual report to  
7 the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before the 10th day of  
8 ~~January~~ March in each year. The report shall include an account of the  
9 Board's actions and the receipts derived under the provisions of this chapter,  
10 the practical effects of the application of the proceeds of the Lottery, and any  
11 recommendation for legislation that the Board deems advisable.

12 \* \* \* Extension of Liquor Liability Insurance Requirement \* \* \*

13 Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 17, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 (a) This section and Secs. 1 and 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

16 (b) Sec. 2 shall take effect on July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

17 \* \* \* Merger of Licensed Entities; License \* \* \*

18 Sec. 9. 7 V.S.A. § 204 is amended to read:

19 § 204. APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FEES FOR LICENSES AND  
20 PERMITS; DISPOSITION OF FEES

1 (a) The following fees shall be paid when applying for a new license or  
2 permit or to renew a license or permit:

3 \* \* \*

4 (25) For a retail master license, \$1,000.00.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 10. 7 V.S.A. § 231 is added to read:

7 § 231. RETAIL MASTER LICENSE

8 The Division of Liquor Control may grant a retail master license to a person  
9 that acts as the parent corporation for licensed retail dealers or manufacturers  
10 that have merged. The holder of a retail master license may provide unified  
11 payroll and administrative services for the licensed retail dealers or  
12 manufacturers. The Division may apply to the holder of a retail master license  
13 any duties or liability for licensee conduct that belongs to the subsidiary  
14 licensees. The Board of Liquor and Lottery may adopt rules to ensure that the  
15 holder of a master retail license and the licensed retail dealers or manufacturers  
16 continue to comply with the provisions of this title.

17 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

18 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

19 (a) This section and Sec. 5 shall take effect on passage.

20 (b) Secs. 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

21 ~~(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.~~

*\* \* \* Tobacco Retail Audit \* \* \**

*Sec. 11. TOBACCO RETAIL AUDIT; INTENT; REPORT*

*(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that comprehensive data should be developed regarding the placement of beverage alcohol products in retail establishments to inform future public policy decisions by the General Assembly.*

*(b)(1) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Liquor and Lottery shall report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare regarding the results of the 2024 Tobacco Retail Audit.*

*(2) The report shall include detailed findings regarding the physical placement of beverage alcohol products within licensed retail establishments.*

*(3) The report shall take the form of a presentation to each of the Committees.*

*\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \**

*Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATES*

*(a) This section and Sec. 5 shall take effect on passage.*

*(b) Secs. 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.*

*(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.*