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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Introduced By: Senators Hodgson, Jabour, Sosnowski, Lombardi, and Goldin

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

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  
2 Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **3-7-4.1. Holders of retail Class A licenses permitted to conduct wine and beer**  
4 **samplings inside licensed premises.** -- Any holder of a Class A retail license shall be permitted  
5 to conduct at no charge to the consumer, inside the premises of the licensee, sample tastings of  
6 wine (under 13% alcohol by volume) and beer (under 5.5% alcohol by volume) available for  
7 purchase from the licensee's outlet. These samples shall not exceed one ounce servings of each  
8 wine, the number of wines being limited to no more than four (4) products at any one tasting and  
9 one ounce serving of each beer with the number of beer samplings being limited to two (2)  
10 products at any one tasting. Furthermore, wine and beer samplings may not be conducted  
11 simultaneously on the same Class A licensed premise. Each consumer shall be limited to no more  
12 than one sample tasting of each product.

13           It shall be required that the licensee provide, at no additional charge to the consumer,  
14 food samplings to be included with the tasting of all wine and beer. Those food samplings not  
15 consumed during the tasting shall not thereafter be offered for sale.

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

1 training provider of alcoholic beverage service.

2 ~~Sampling events may not be promoted except on the licensed premises.~~ It shall be  
3 unlawful for any wholesaler, manufacturer, supplier or any other person or entity to participate or  
4 provide anything or any service of value on account of or in conjunction with any such sampling.

5 It shall be unlawful for any tasting or combination of tastings to exceed more than four (4) hours  
6 from start to finish and must be conducted during the normal hours of business.

7 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

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1           This act would provide that there be no additional charge to the consumer for food  
2 samplings and wine tastings and would eliminate the requirement that sampling events be  
3 promoted only on the licensed premises.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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