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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - RETAIL LICENSES

Introduced By: Senators Jabour, Lombardi, McCaffrey, Doyle, and Crowley

Date Introduced: January 22, 2015

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, beer, and**
4 **distilled spirit samplings inside licensed premises.** -- Any holder of a Class A retail license
5 shall be permitted to conduct at no charge to the consumer, inside the premises of the licensee,
6 sample tastings of wine (under 13% alcohol by volume), beer (under 5.5% alcohol by volume)
7 and distilled spirits available for purchase from the licensee's outlet. These samples shall not
8 exceed one ounce servings of each wine, the number of wines being limited to no more than four
9 (4) products at any one tasting and one ounce serving of each beer with the number of beer
10 samplings being limited to two (2) products at any one tasting and one quarter ounce serving (1/4
11 oz) of each distilled spirit, the number of distilled spirits being limited to no more than two (2)
12 products at any one tasting. Furthermore, wine, beer and distilled spirits samplings may not be
13 conducted simultaneously on the same Class A licensed premise. Each consumer shall be limited
14 to no more than one sample tasting of each product. [The licensee may elect on four \(4\) occasions](#)
15 [annually to serve unlimited samples of wine products available for purchase from the licensee's](#)
16 [outlet.](#)

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

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

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

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - RETAIL LICENSES

1 This act would permit class A liquor retail license holders to elect on four (4) occasions
2 annually to serve unlimited samples of wine products which are available for purchase from the
3 licensee's outlet.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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