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HOUSE BILL NO. 1634

Offered January 14, 2015

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A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 4.1-100 and 4.1-207 of the Code of Virginia, relating to alcoholic beverage control; alcohol by volume.

Patrons—Bulova and Rush

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 4.1-100 and 4.1-207 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 4.1-100. Definitions.**

As used in this title unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Alcohol" means the product known as ethyl or grain alcohol obtained by distillation of any fermented liquor, rectified either once or more often, whatever the origin, and shall include synthetic ethyl alcohol, but shall not include methyl alcohol and alcohol completely denatured in accordance with formulas approved by the government of the United States.

"Alcohol vaporizing device" means any device, machine, or process that mixes any alcoholic beverages with pure oxygen or other gas to produce a vaporized product for the purpose of consumption by inhalation.

"Alcoholic beverages" includes alcohol, spirits, wine, and beer, and any one or more of such varieties containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, including mixed alcoholic beverages, and every liquid or solid, patented or not, containing alcohol, spirits, wine, or beer and capable of being consumed by a human being. Any liquid or solid containing more than one of the four varieties shall be considered as belonging to that variety which has the higher percentage of alcohol, however obtained, according to the order in which they are set forth in this definition; except that beer may be manufactured to include flavoring materials and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol, as long as no more than 49 percent of the overall alcohol content of the finished product is derived from the addition of flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol for products with an alcohol content of no more than six percent by volume; or, in the case of products with an alcohol content of more than six percent by volume, as long as no more than one and one-half percent of the volume of the finished product consists of alcohol derived from added flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol.

"Arts venue" means a commercial or nonprofit establishment that is open to the public and in which works of art are sold or displayed.

"Barrel" means any container or vessel having a capacity of more than 43 ounces.

"Bed and breakfast establishment" means any establishment (i) having no more than 15 bedrooms; (ii) offering to the public, for compensation, transitory lodging or sleeping accommodations; and (iii) offering at least one meal per day, which may but need not be breakfast, to each person to whom overnight lodging is provided.

"Beer" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by the fermentation of an infusion or decoction of barley, malt, and hops or of any similar products in drinkable water and containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

"Board" means the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

"Bottle" means any vessel intended to contain liquids and having a capacity of not more than 43 ounces.

"Canal boat operator" means any nonprofit organization that operates tourism-oriented canal boats for recreational purposes on waterways declared nonnavigable by the United States Congress pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 59ii.

"Club" means any private nonprofit corporation or association which is the owner, lessee, or occupant of an establishment operated solely for a national, social, patriotic, political, athletic, or other like purpose, but not for pecuniary gain, the advantages of which belong to all of the members. It also means the establishment so operated. A corporation or association shall not lose its status as a club because of the conduct of charitable gaming conducted pursuant to Article 1.1:1 (§ 18.2-340.15 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2 in which nonmembers participate frequently or in large numbers, provided that no alcoholic beverages are served or consumed in the room where such charitable gaming is being conducted while such gaming is being conducted and that no alcoholic beverages are made available upon the premises to any person who is neither a member nor a bona fide guest of a member.

59 Any such corporation or association which has been declared exempt from federal and state income
60 taxes as one which is not organized and operated for pecuniary gain or profit shall be deemed a
61 nonprofit corporation or association.

62 "Container" means any barrel, bottle, carton, keg, vessel or other receptacle used for holding
63 alcoholic beverages.

64 "Contract winemaking facility" means the premises of a licensed winery or farm winery that obtains
65 grapes, fruits, and other agricultural products from a person holding a farm winery license and crushes,
66 processes, ferments, bottles, or provides any combination of such services pursuant to an agreement with
67 the farm winery licensee. For all purposes of this title, wine produced by a contract winemaking facility
68 for a farm winery shall be considered to be wine owned and produced by the farm winery that supplied
69 the grapes, fruits, or other agricultural products used in the production of the wine. The contract
70 winemaking facility shall have no right to sell the wine so produced, unless the terms of payment have
71 not been fulfilled in accordance with the contract. The contract winemaking facility may charge the farm
72 winery for its services.

73 "Convenience grocery store" means an establishment which (i) has an enclosed room in a permanent
74 structure where stock is displayed and offered for sale and (ii) maintains an inventory of edible items
75 intended for human consumption consisting of a variety of such items of the types normally sold in
76 grocery stores.

77 "Day spa" means any commercial establishment that offers to the public both massage therapy,
78 performed by persons certified in accordance with § 54.1-3029, and barbering or cosmetology services
79 performed by persons licensed in accordance with Chapter 7 (§ 54.1-700 et seq.) of Title 54.1.

80 "Designated area" means a room or area approved by the Board for on-premises licensees.

81 "Dining area" means a public room or area in which meals are regularly served.

82 "Establishment" means any place where alcoholic beverages of one or more varieties are lawfully
83 manufactured, sold, or used.

84 "Farm winery" means an establishment (i) located on a farm in the Commonwealth with a producing
85 vineyard, orchard, or similar growing area and with facilities for fermenting and bottling wine on the
86 premises where the owner or lessee manufactures wine that contains not more than ~~48~~ 21 percent
87 alcohol by volume or (ii) located in the Commonwealth with a producing vineyard, orchard, or similar
88 growing area or agreements for purchasing grapes or other fruits from agricultural growers within the
89 Commonwealth, and with facilities for fermenting and bottling wine on the premises where the owner or
90 lessee manufactures wine that contains not more than ~~48~~ 21 percent alcohol by volume. As used in this
91 definition, the terms "owner" and "lessee" shall include a cooperative formed by an association of
92 individuals for the purpose of manufacturing wine. In the event such cooperative is licensed as a farm
93 winery, the term "farm" as used in this definition includes all of the land owned or leased by the
94 individual members of the cooperative as long as such land is located in the Commonwealth.

95 "Gift shop" means any bona fide retail store selling, predominantly, gifts, books, souvenirs, specialty
96 items relating to history, original and handmade arts and products, collectibles, crafts, and floral
97 arrangements, which is open to the public on a regular basis. Such shop shall be a permanent structure
98 where stock is displayed and offered for sale and which has facilities to properly secure any stock of
99 wine or beer. Such shop may be located (i) on the premises or grounds of a government registered
100 national, state or local historic building or site or (ii) within the premises of a museum. The Board shall
101 consider the purpose, characteristics, nature, and operation of the shop in determining whether it shall be
102 considered a gift shop.

103 "Gourmet brewing shop" means an establishment which sells to persons to whom wine or beer may
104 lawfully be sold, ingredients for making wine or brewing beer, including packaging, and rents to such
105 persons facilities for manufacturing, fermenting and bottling such wine or beer.

106 "Gourmet shop" means an establishment provided with adequate inventory, shelving, and storage
107 facilities, where, in consideration of payment, substantial amounts of domestic and imported wines and
108 beers of various types and sizes and related products such as cheeses and gourmet foods are habitually
109 furnished to persons.

110 "Government store" means a store established by the Board for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

111 "Hotel" means any duly licensed establishment, provided with special space and accommodation,
112 where, in consideration of payment, food and lodging are habitually furnished to persons, and which has
113 four or more bedrooms. It shall also mean the person who operates such hotel.

114 "Interdicted person" means a person to whom the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by order
115 pursuant to this title.

116 "Internet wine retailer" means a person who owns or operates an establishment with adequate
117 inventory, shelving, and storage facilities, where, in consideration of payment, internet or telephone
118 orders are taken and shipped directly to consumers and which establishment is not a retail store open to
119 the public.

120 "Intoxicated" means a condition in which a person has drunk enough alcoholic beverages to

121 observably affect his manner, disposition, speech, muscular movement, general appearance or behavior.

122 "Licensed" means the holding of a valid license issued by the Board.

123 "Licensee" means any person to whom a license has been granted by the Board.

124 "Liqueur" means any of a class of highly flavored alcoholic beverages that do not exceed an alcohol
125 content of 25 percent by volume.

126 "Low alcohol beverage cooler" means a drink containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol
127 by volume, but not more than seven and one-half percent alcohol by volume, and consisting of spirits
128 mixed with nonalcoholic beverages or flavoring or coloring materials; it may also contain water, fruit
129 juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, preservatives or other similar products manufactured by
130 fermenting fruit or fruit juices. Low alcohol beverage coolers shall be treated as wine for all purposes of
131 this title; except that low alcohol beverage coolers shall not be sold in localities that have not approved
132 the sale of mixed beverages pursuant to § 4.1-124. In addition, low alcohol beverage coolers shall not be
133 sold for on-premises consumption other than by mixed beverage licensees.

134 "Meal-assembly kitchen" means any commercial establishment that offers its customers, for
135 off-premises consumption, ingredients for the preparation of meals and entrees in professional kitchen
136 facilities located at the establishment.

137 "Meals" means, for a mixed beverage license, an assortment of foods commonly ordered in bona
138 fide, full-service restaurants as principal meals of the day. Such restaurants shall include establishments
139 specializing in full course meals with a single substantial entree.

140 "Member of a club" means (i) a person who maintains his membership in the club by the payment of
141 monthly, quarterly, or annual dues in the manner established by the rules and regulations thereof or (ii)
142 a person who is a member of a bona fide auxiliary, local chapter, or squadron composed of direct lineal
143 descendants of a bona fide member, whether alive or deceased, of a national or international
144 organization to which an individual lodge holding a club license is an authorized member in the same
145 locality. It shall also mean a lifetime member whose financial contribution is not less than 10 times the
146 annual dues of resident members of the club, the full amount of such contribution being paid in advance
147 in a lump sum.

148 "Mixed beverage" or "mixed alcoholic beverage" means a drink composed in whole or in part of
149 spirits.

150 "Mixer" means any prepackaged ingredients containing beverages or flavoring or coloring materials,
151 and which may also contain water, fruit juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, or preservatives
152 which are not commonly consumed unless combined with alcoholic beverages, whether or not such
153 ingredients contain alcohol. Such specialty beverage product shall be manufactured or distributed by a
154 Virginia corporation.

155 "Place or premises" means the real estate, together with any buildings or other improvements thereon,
156 designated in the application for a license as the place at which the manufacture, bottling, distribution,
157 use or sale of alcoholic beverages shall be performed, except that portion of any such building or other
158 improvement actually and exclusively used as a private residence.

159 "Public place" means any place, building, or conveyance to which the public has, or is permitted to
160 have, access, including restaurants, soda fountains, hotel dining areas, lobbies and corridors of hotels,
161 and any park, place of public resort or amusement, highway, street, lane, or sidewalk adjoining any
162 highway, street, or lane.

163 The term shall not include (i) hotel or restaurant dining areas or ballrooms while in use for private
164 meetings or private parties limited in attendance to members and guests of a particular group,
165 association or organization; (ii) restaurants licensed by the Board in office buildings or industrial or
166 similar facilities while such restaurant is closed to the public and in use for private meetings or parties
167 limited in attendance to employees and nonpaying guests of the owner or a lessee of all or part of such
168 building or facility; (iii) offices, office buildings or industrial facilities while closed to the public and in
169 use for private meetings or parties limited in attendance to employees and nonpaying guests of the
170 owner or a lessee of all or part of such building or facility; or (iv) private recreational or chartered boats
171 which are not licensed by the Board and on which alcoholic beverages are not sold.

172 "Residence" means any building or part of a building or structure where a person resides, but does
173 not include any part of a building which is not actually and exclusively used as a private residence, nor
174 any part of a hotel or club other than a private guest room thereof.

175 "Resort complex" means a facility (i) with a hotel owning year-round sports and recreational facilities
176 located contiguously on the same property or (ii) owned by a nonstock, nonprofit, taxable corporation
177 with voluntary membership which, as its primary function, makes available golf, ski and other
178 recreational facilities both to its members and the general public. The hotel or corporation shall have a
179 minimum of 140 private guest rooms or dwelling units contained on not less than 50 acres. The Board
180 may consider the purpose, characteristics, and operation of the applicant establishment in determining
181 whether it shall be considered as a resort complex. All other pertinent qualifications established by the

182 Board for a hotel operation shall be observed by such licensee.

183 "Restaurant" means, for a beer, or wine and beer license or a limited mixed beverage restaurant
184 license, any establishment provided with special space and accommodation, where, in consideration of
185 payment, meals or other foods prepared on the premises are regularly sold.

186 "Restaurant" means, for a mixed beverage license other than a limited mixed beverage restaurant
187 license, an established place of business (i) where meals with substantial entrees are regularly sold and
188 (ii) which has adequate facilities and sufficient employees for cooking, preparing, and serving such
189 meals for consumption at tables in dining areas on the premises, and includes establishments specializing
190 in full course meals with a single substantial entree.

191 "Sale" and "sell" includes soliciting or receiving an order for; keeping, offering or exposing for sale;
192 peddling, exchanging or bartering; or delivering otherwise than gratuitously, by any means, alcoholic
193 beverages.

194 "Sangria" means a drink consisting of red or white wine mixed with some combination of
195 sweeteners, fruit, fruit juice, soda, or soda water that may also be mixed with brandy, triple sec, or other
196 similar spirits.

197 "Special agent" means an employee of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control whom the
198 Board has designated as a law-enforcement officer pursuant to § 4.1-105.

199 "Special event" means an event sponsored by a duly organized nonprofit corporation or association
200 and conducted for an athletic, charitable, civic, educational, political, or religious purpose.

201 "Spirits" means any beverage which contains alcohol obtained by distillation mixed with drinkable
202 water and other substances, in solution, and includes, among other things, brandy, rum, whiskey, and
203 gin, or any one or more of the last four named ingredients; but shall not include any such liquors
204 completely denatured in accordance with formulas approved by the United States government.

205 "Wine" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by the fermentation of the natural sugar content of
206 fruits or other agricultural products containing (i) sugar, including honey and milk, either with or
207 without additional sugar; (ii) one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume; and (iii) no product
208 of distillation. The term includes any wine to which wine spirits have been added, as provided in the
209 Internal Revenue Code, to make products commonly known as "fortified wine" which do not exceed an
210 alcohol content of 21 percent by volume.

211 "Wine cooler" means a drink containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, and
212 not more than three and two-tenths percent of alcohol by weight or four percent by volume consisting of
213 wine mixed with nonalcoholic beverages or flavoring or coloring materials, and which may also contain
214 water, fruit juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, or preservatives and shall include other similar
215 products manufactured by fermenting fruit or fruit juices. Wine coolers and similar fermented fruit juice
216 beverages shall be treated as wine for all purposes except for taxation under § 4.1-236.

217 "With or without meals" means the selling and serving of alcoholic beverages by retail licensees for
218 on-premises consumption whether or not accompanied by food so long as the total food-beverage ratio
219 required by § 4.1-210, or the monthly food sale requirement established by Board regulation, is met by
220 such retail licensee.

221 **§ 4.1-207. Wine licenses.**

222 The Board may grant the following licenses relating to wine:

223 1. Winery licenses, which shall authorize the licensee to manufacture wine and to sell and deliver or
224 ship the wine, in accordance with Board regulations, in closed containers, to persons licensed to sell the
225 wine so manufactured at wholesale for the purpose of resale, and to persons outside the Commonwealth
226 for resale outside the Commonwealth. In addition, such license shall authorize the licensee to (i) operate
227 distilling equipment on the premises of the licensee in the manufacture of spirits from fruit or fruit
228 juices only, which shall be used only for the fortification of wine produced by the licensee; (ii) operate
229 a contract winemaking facility on the premises of the licensee in accordance with Board regulations; and
230 (iii) store wine in bonded warehouses on or off the licensed premises upon permit issued by the Board.

231 2. Wholesale wine licenses, including those granted pursuant to § 4.1-207.1, which shall authorize the
232 licensee to acquire and receive deliveries and shipments of wine and to sell and deliver or ship the wine
233 from one or more premises identified in the license, in accordance with Board regulations, in closed
234 containers, to (i) persons licensed to sell such wine in the Commonwealth, (ii) persons outside the
235 Commonwealth for resale outside the Commonwealth, (iii) religious congregations for use only for
236 sacramental purposes, and (iv) owners of boats registered under the laws of the United States sailing for
237 ports of call of a foreign country or another state.

238 No wholesale wine licensee shall purchase wine for resale from a person outside the Commonwealth
239 who does not hold a wine importer's license unless such wholesale wine licensee holds a wine importer's
240 license and purchases wine for resale pursuant to the privileges of such wine importer's license.

241 3. Wine importers' licenses, which shall authorize persons located within or outside the
242 Commonwealth to sell and deliver or ship wine, in accordance with Board regulations, in closed
243 containers, to persons in the Commonwealth licensed to sell wine at wholesale for the purpose of resale,

244 and to persons outside the Commonwealth for resale outside the Commonwealth.

245 4. Retail off-premises winery licenses to persons holding winery licenses, which shall authorize the
246 licensee to sell wine at the place of business designated in the winery license, in closed containers, for
247 off-premises consumption.

248 5. Farm winery licenses, which shall authorize the licensee to manufacture wine containing 18 21
249 percent or less of alcohol by volume and to sell, deliver or ship the wine, in accordance with Board
250 regulations, in closed containers, to (i) the Board, (ii) persons licensed to sell the wine so manufactured
251 at wholesale for the purpose of resale, § 4.1-326 notwithstanding, or (iii) persons outside the
252 Commonwealth. In addition, the licensee may (a) acquire and receive deliveries and shipments of wine
253 and sell and deliver or ship this wine, in accordance with Board regulations, to the Board, persons
254 licensed to sell wine at wholesale for the purpose of resale, or persons outside the Commonwealth; (b)
255 operate a contract winemaking facility on the premises of the licensee in accordance with Board
256 regulations; and (c) store wine in bonded warehouses located on or off the licensed premises upon
257 permits issued by the Board. For the purposes of this title, a farm winery license shall be designated
258 either as a Class A or Class B farm winery license in accordance with the limitations set forth in
259 § 4.1-219. A farm winery may enter into an agreement in accordance with Board regulations with a
260 winery or farm winery licensee operating a contract winemaking facility.

261 Such licenses shall also authorize the licensee to sell wine at retail at the places of business
262 designated in the licenses, which may include no more than five additional retail establishments of the
263 licensee. Wine may be sold at these business places for on-premises consumption and in closed
264 containers for off-premises consumption. In addition, wine may be pre-mixed by the licensee to be
265 served and sold for on-premises consumption at these business places.

266 6. Internet wine retailer license, which shall authorize persons located within or outside the
267 Commonwealth to sell and ship wine, in accordance with § 4.1-209.1 and Board regulations, in closed
268 containers to persons in the Commonwealth to whom wine may be lawfully sold for off-premises
269 consumption. Such licensee shall not be required to comply with the monthly food sale requirement
270 established by Board regulations.