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HOUSE BILL NO. 323

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 5, 2016

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 4.1-103, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 4.1-104, and 4.1-119, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to alcoholic beverage control; purchase and sale of products.

Patron—Knight

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 4.1-103, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 4.1-104, and 4.1-119, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 4.1-103. (Effective until July 1, 2018) General powers of Board.

The Board shall have the power to:

1. Buy, import and sell alcoholic beverages other than beer and wine not produced by farm wineries, and to have alcoholic beverages other than beer and wine not produced by farm wineries in its possession for sale;

2. Buy and sell any mixers;

3. *Buy and sell products licensed by the Virginia Tourism Corporation;*

4. Control the possession, sale, transportation and delivery of alcoholic beverages;

4. 5. Determine, subject to § 4.1-121, the localities within which government stores shall be established or operated and the location of such stores;

5. 6. Maintain warehouses for alcoholic beverages and control the storage and delivery of alcoholic beverages to and from such warehouses;

6. 7. Lease, occupy and improve any land or building required for the purposes of this title;

7. 8. Purchase or otherwise acquire title to any land or building required for the purposes of this title and sell and convey the same by proper deed, with the consent of the Governor;

8. 9. Purchase, lease or acquire the use of, by any manner, any plant or equipment which may be considered necessary or useful in carrying into effect the purposes of this title, including rectifying, blending and processing plants. The Board may purchase, build, lease, and operate distilleries and manufacture alcoholic beverages;

9. 10. Determine the nature, form and capacity of all containers used for holding alcoholic beverages to be kept or sold under this title, and prescribe the form and content of all labels and seals to be placed thereon; however, no container sold in or shipped into the Commonwealth shall include powdered or crystalline alcohol;

10. 11. Appoint every agent and employee required for its operations; require any or all of them to give bonds payable to the Commonwealth in such penalty as shall be fixed by the Board; and engage the services of experts and professionals;

11. 12. Hold and conduct hearings; issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of records, memoranda, papers and other documents before the Board or any agent of the Board; and administer oaths and take testimony thereunder. The Board may authorize any Board member or agent of the Board to hold and conduct hearings, issue subpoenas, administer oaths and take testimony thereunder, and make summary decisions, subject to final decision by the Board, on application of any party aggrieved;

12. 13. Make a reasonable charge for preparing and furnishing statistical information and compilations to persons other than (i) officials, including court and police officials, of the Commonwealth and of its subdivisions if the information requested is for official use and (ii) persons who have a personal or legal interest in obtaining the information requested if such information is not to be used for commercial or trade purposes;

13. 14. Promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) and § 4.1-111 of this chapter;

14. 15. Grant, suspend, and revoke licenses for the manufacture, bottling, distribution, importation, and sale of alcoholic beverages;

15. 16. Assess and collect civil penalties and civil charges for violations of this title and Board regulations;

16. 17. Maintain actions to enjoin common nuisances as defined in § 4.1-317;

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~~17.~~ 18. Establish minimum food sale requirements for all retail licensees; and
~~18.~~ 19. Do all acts necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of this title.

§ 4.1-103. (Effective July 1, 2018) General powers of Board.

The Board shall have the power to:

1. Sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in all courts;

2. Adopt, use, and alter at will a common seal;

3. Fix, alter, charge, and collect rates, rentals, fees, and other charges for the use of property of, the sale of products of, or services rendered by the Authority at rates to be determined by the Authority for the purpose of providing for the payment of the expenses of the Authority;

4. Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties, the furtherance of its purposes, and the execution of its powers under this title, including agreements with any person or federal agency;

5. Employ, at its discretion, consultants, researchers, architects, engineers, accountants, financial experts, investment bankers, superintendents, managers, and such other employees and agents as may be necessary and fix their compensation to be payable from funds made available to the Authority. Legal services for the Authority shall be provided by the Attorney General in accordance with Chapter 5 (§ 2.2-500 et seq.) of Title 2.2;

6. Receive and accept from any federal or private agency, foundation, corporation, association, or person grants or other aid to be expended in accomplishing the objectives of the Authority, and receive and accept from the Commonwealth or any state and any municipality, county, or other political subdivision thereof or from any other source aid or contributions of either money, property, or other things of value, to be held, used, and applied only for the purposes for which such grants and contributions may be made. All federal moneys accepted under this section shall be accepted and expended by the Authority upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed by the United States and as are consistent with state law, and all state moneys accepted under this section shall be expended by the Authority upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed by the Commonwealth;

7. Adopt, alter, and repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations governing the manner in which its business shall be transacted and the manner in which the powers of the Authority shall be exercised and its duties performed;

8. Conduct or engage in any lawful business, activity, effort, or project consistent with the Authority's purposes or necessary or convenient to exercise its powers;

9. Develop policies and procedures generally applicable to the procurement of goods, services, and construction, based upon competitive principles;

10. Develop policies and procedures consistent with Article 4 (§ 2.2-4347 et seq.) of Chapter 43 of Title 2.2;

11. Buy, import and sell alcoholic beverages other than beer and wine not produced by farm wineries, and to have alcoholic beverages other than beer and wine not produced by farm wineries in its possession for sale;

12. Buy and sell any mixers;

13. *Buy and sell products licensed by the Virginia Tourism Corporation;*

14. Control the possession, sale, transportation and delivery of alcoholic beverages;

~~15.~~ 15. Determine, subject to § 4.1-121, the localities within which government stores shall be established or operated and the location of such stores;

~~16.~~ 16. Maintain warehouses for alcoholic beverages and control the storage and delivery of alcoholic beverages to and from such warehouses;

~~17.~~ 17. Acquire, purchase, hold, use, lease, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the Authority; lease as lessee any property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein, at such annual rental and on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board; lease as lessor to any person any property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein, at any time acquired by the Authority, whether wholly or partially completed, at such annual rental and on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board; sell, transfer, or convey any property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein, at any time acquired or held by the Authority on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board; and occupy and improve any land or building required for the purposes of this title;

~~18.~~ 18. Purchase or otherwise acquire title to any land or building required for the purposes of this title and sell and convey the same by proper deed, with the consent of the Governor;

~~19.~~ 19. Purchase, lease or acquire the use of, by any manner, any plant or equipment which may be considered necessary or useful in carrying into effect the purposes of this title, including rectifying, blending and processing plants. The Board may purchase, build, lease, and operate distilleries and manufacture alcoholic beverages;

~~20.~~ 20. Determine the nature, form and capacity of all containers used for holding alcoholic

beverages to be kept or sold under this title, and prescribe the form and content of all labels and seals to be placed thereon; however, no container sold in or shipped into the Commonwealth shall include powdered or crystalline alcohol;

~~20.~~ 21. Appoint every agent and employee required for its operations; require any or all of them to give bonds payable to the Commonwealth in such penalty as shall be fixed by the Board; and engage the services of experts and professionals;

~~21.~~ 22. Hold and conduct hearings; issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of records, memoranda, papers and other documents before the Board or any agent of the Board; and administer oaths and take testimony thereunder. The Board may authorize any Board member or agent of the Board to hold and conduct hearings, issue subpoenas, administer oaths and take testimony thereunder, and make summary decisions, subject to final decision by the Board, on application of any party aggrieved;

~~22.~~ 23. Make a reasonable charge for preparing and furnishing statistical information and compilations to persons other than (i) officials, including court and police officials, of the Commonwealth and of its subdivisions if the information requested is for official use and (ii) persons who have a personal or legal interest in obtaining the information requested if such information is not to be used for commercial or trade purposes;

~~23.~~ 24. Promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) and § 4.1-111;

~~24.~~ 25. Grant, suspend, and revoke licenses for the manufacture, bottling, distribution, importation, and sale of alcoholic beverages;

~~25.~~ 26. Assess and collect civil penalties and civil charges for violations of this title and Board regulations;

~~26.~~ 27. Maintain actions to enjoin common nuisances as defined in § 4.1-317;

~~27.~~ 28. Establish minimum food sale requirements for all retail licensees;

~~28.~~ 29. Review and approve any proposed legislative or regulatory changes suggested by the Chief Executive Officer as the Board deems appropriate;

~~29.~~ 30. Report quarterly to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security on the law-enforcement activities undertaken to enforce the provisions of this title; and

~~30.~~ 31. Do all acts necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of this title.

§ 4.1-104. Purchases by the Board.

The purchasing of alcoholic beverages and mixers, products used in connection with distilled spirits intended for resale *or products licensed by the Virginia Tourism Corporation intended for resale*, the making of leases, and the purchasing of real estate by the Board under the provisions of this title are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.).

§ 4.1-119. (Effective until July 1, 2018) Operation of government stores.

A. Subject to the requirements of §§ 4.1-121 and 4.1-122, the Board may establish, maintain and operate government stores for the sale of alcoholic beverages, other than beer and wine not produced by farm wineries, vermouth, mixers, ~~and~~ products used in connection with distilled spirits, including any garnish or garnishment applied to the rim of a glass of distilled spirits, as may be approved by the Board from time to time, *and products licensed by the Virginia Tourism Corporation* in such counties, cities, and towns considered advisable by the Board. The Board may discontinue any such store.

B. With respect to the sale of wine produced by farm wineries, the Board may give preference to farm wineries that produce 2,500 cases or less of wine per year.

C. The Board shall fix the wholesale and retail prices at which the various classes, varieties and brands of alcoholic beverages and other Board-approved products that are sold in government stores. Differences in the cost of operating stores, and market competition and conditions may be reflected in the sale price of alcoholic beverages sold at government stores. The Board may sell alcoholic beverages to federal instrumentalities (i) authorized and operating under the laws of the United States and regulations of the United States Department of Defense and (ii) located within the boundaries of federal enclaves or reservations over which the United States has acquired jurisdiction, at prices which may be greater or less than the wholesale price charged other authorized purchasers.

D. Alcoholic beverages at government stores shall be sold by employees of the Board, who shall carry out the provisions of this title and Board regulations governing the operation of government stores and the sale of alcoholic beverages, except that the Board may appoint the holder of a distiller's license or its officers and employees as agents of the Board for the sale of spirits, manufactured by or for, or blended by such licensee on the licensed premises, at government stores established by the Board on the distiller's licensed premises.

Such agents shall sell the spirits in accordance with the provisions of this title, Board regulations, and the terms of the agency agreement between the Board and the licensed distiller.

For the purposes of this subsection, "blended" means the receipt by a licensed distiller of deliveries

182 and shipments of alcoholic beverages, other than wine and beer, in accordance with subdivision 6 of
183 § 4.1-201 to be (i) additionally aged by the receiving distillery in order to increase the quality and flavor
184 of such alcoholic beverages and (ii) bottled by the receiving distillery.

185 E. No Class 1 neutral grain spirit or alcohol, as defined by federal regulations, that is without
186 distinctive character, aroma, taste or color shall be sold in government stores at a proof greater than 101
187 except upon permits issued by the Board for industrial, commercial, culinary, or medical use.

188 F. All alcoholic beverages sold in government stores, except for tasting samples pursuant to
189 subsection G sold in government stores established by the Board on a distiller's licensed premises, shall
190 be in closed containers, sealed and affixed with labels prescribed by the Board.

191 G. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed in a government store by any person unless it is part
192 of an organized tasting event conducted by (i) an employee of a manufacturer of distilled spirits or farm
193 winery or (ii) an authorized representative of a manufacturer of distilled spirits or farm winery with a
194 permit issued by the Board pursuant to subdivision A 15 of § 4.1-212, and the samples of alcoholic
195 beverages provided to any consumer do not exceed the limits for spirits or wine set forth in subdivision
196 A 5 of § 4.1-201.1. No sample may be consumed by any individual to whom alcoholic beverages may
197 not lawfully be sold pursuant to § 4.1-304.

198 Notwithstanding the provision of this subsection to the contrary, an agent of the Board appointed
199 pursuant to subsection D may give samples of beer, wine, or cider to persons to whom alcoholic
200 beverages may be lawfully sold for on-premises consumption, provided that (i) the beer, wine, or cider
201 samples are manufactured within the same licensed premises or on contiguous premises of such agent
202 licensed as a brewery or winery; (ii) no single sample shall exceed four ounces of beer, two ounces of
203 wine, or one-half ounce of spirits; and (iii) no more than four total samples of alcoholic beverage
204 products shall be given or sold to any person per day. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit such
205 agent from serving samples of spirits as a mixed beverage.

206 The Board shall establish guidelines governing tasting events conducted pursuant to this subsection.

207 H. With respect to purchases by licensees at government stores, the Board shall (i) accept in payment
208 for any purchase or series of purchases cash, electronic fund transfer, credit or debit card, or check
209 payable to the Board, in the exact amount of any such purchase or series of purchases and (ii) provide
210 notice to licensees on Board policies relating to the assignment of government stores from which
211 licensees may purchase products and any procedure for the licensee to elect to make purchases from an
212 alternative government store.

213 I. With respect to purchases by consumers at government stores, the Board shall accept cash in
214 payment for any purchase or series of purchases. The Board may adopt regulations which provide for
215 accepting a credit card or debit card as payment. Such regulations may provide for the collection, where
216 appropriate, of related fees, penalties and service charges for the use of a credit card or debit card by
217 any consumer.

218 **§ 4.1-119. (Effective July 1, 2018) Operation of government stores.**

219 A. Subject to the requirements of §§ 4.1-121 and 4.1-122, the Board may establish, maintain and
220 operate government stores for the sale of alcoholic beverages, other than beer and wine not produced by
221 farm wineries, vermouth, mixers, and products used in connection with distilled spirits, including any
222 garnish or garnishment applied to the rim of a glass of distilled spirits, as may be approved by the
223 Board from time to time, *and products licensed by the Virginia Tourism Corporation* in such counties,
224 cities, and towns considered advisable by the Board. The Board may discontinue any such store.

225 B. With respect to the sale of wine produced by farm wineries, the Board may give preference to
226 farm wineries that produce 2,500 cases or less of wine per year.

227 C. The Board shall fix the wholesale and retail prices at which the various classes, varieties and
228 brands of alcoholic beverages and other Board-approved products that are sold in government stores.
229 Differences in the cost of operating stores, and market competition and conditions may be reflected in
230 the sale price of alcoholic beverages sold at government stores. The Board may sell alcoholic beverages
231 to federal instrumentalities (i) authorized and operating under the laws of the United States and
232 regulations of the United States Department of Defense and (ii) located within the boundaries of federal
233 enclaves or reservations over which the United States has acquired jurisdiction, at prices which may be
234 greater or less than the wholesale price charged other authorized purchasers. Nothing in this subsection
235 shall be construed to limit the authority of the Board to fix the retail price of alcoholic beverages sold at
236 government stores, which retail price may include promotional, volume, or other discounts deemed
237 appropriate by the Board.

238 D. Alcoholic beverages at government stores shall be sold by employees of the Authority who shall
239 carry out the provisions of this title and Board regulations governing the operation of government stores
240 and the sale of alcoholic beverages, except that the Board may appoint the holder of a distiller's license
241 or its officers and employees as agents of the Board for the sale of spirits, manufactured by or for, or
242 blended by such licensee on the licensed premises, at government stores established by the Board on the
243 distiller's licensed premises.

Such agents shall sell the spirits in accordance with the provisions of this title, Board regulations, and the terms of the agency agreement between the Authority and the licensed distiller.

For the purposes of this subsection, "blended" means the receipt by a licensed distiller of deliveries and shipments of alcoholic beverages, other than wine and beer, in accordance with subdivision 6 of § 4.1-201 to be (i) additionally aged by the receiving distillery in order to increase the quality and flavor of such alcoholic beverages and (ii) bottled by the receiving distillery.

E. No Class 1 neutral grain spirit or alcohol, as defined by federal regulations, that is without distinctive character, aroma, taste or color shall be sold in government stores at a proof greater than 101 except upon permits issued by the Board for industrial, commercial, culinary, or medical use.

F. All alcoholic beverages sold in government stores, except for tasting samples pursuant to subsection G sold in government stores established by the Board on a distiller's licensed premises, shall be in closed containers, sealed and affixed with labels prescribed by the Board.

G. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed in a government store by any person unless it is part of an organized tasting event conducted by (i) an employee of a manufacturer of distilled spirits or farm winery or (ii) an authorized representative of a manufacturer of distilled spirits or farm winery with a permit issued by the Board pursuant to subdivision A 15 of § 4.1-212, and the samples of alcoholic beverages provided to any consumer do not exceed the limits for spirits or wine set forth in subdivision A 5 of § 4.1-201.1. No sample may be consumed by any individual to whom alcoholic beverages may not lawfully be sold pursuant to § 4.1-304.

Notwithstanding the provision of this subsection to the contrary, an agent of the Board appointed pursuant to subsection D may give samples of beer, wine, or cider to persons to whom alcoholic beverages may be lawfully sold for on-premises consumption, provided that (i) the beer, wine, or cider samples are manufactured within the same licensed premises or on contiguous premises of such agent licensed as a brewery or winery; (ii) no single sample shall exceed four ounces of beer, two ounces of wine, or one-half ounce of spirits; and (iii) no more than four total samples of alcoholic beverage products shall be given or sold to any person per day. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit such agent from serving samples of spirits as a mixed beverage.

The Board shall establish guidelines governing tasting events conducted pursuant to this subsection.

H. With respect to purchases by licensees at government stores, the Authority shall (i) accept in payment for any purchase or series of purchases cash, electronic fund transfer, credit or debit card, or check payable to the Authority, in the exact amount of any such purchase or series of purchases and (ii) provide notice to licensees on Board policies relating to the assignment of government stores from which licensees may purchase products and any procedure for the licensee to elect to make purchases from an alternative government store.

I. With respect to purchases by consumers at government stores, the Authority shall accept cash in payment for any purchase or series of purchases. The Board may adopt regulations which provide for accepting a credit card or debit card as payment. Such regulations may provide for the collection, where appropriate, of related fees, penalties and service charges for the use of a credit card or debit card by any consumer.

J. Before the Authority implements any increase in the markup on distilled spirits or any change to the markup formula for distilled spirits pursuant to § 4.1-235 that would result in an increase in the retail price of distilled spirits sold to the public, the Authority shall (i) provide at least 45 days' public notice before such a price increase takes effect; (ii) provide the opportunity for submission of written comments regarding the proposed price increase; (iii) conduct a public meeting for the purpose of receiving verbal comment regarding the proposed price increase; and (iv) consider any written or verbal comments before implementing such a price increase.