

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1997 SESSION

CHAPTER 126

An Act to amend and reenact § 4.1-124 of the Code of Virginia, relating to alcoholic beverage control; referendum on mixed beverages.

[H 1618]

Approved March 6, 1997

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 4.1-124 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 4.1-124. Referendum on the sale of mixed beverages.

A. The provisions of this title relating to the sale of mixed beverages shall not become effective in any town, county, or supervisor's election district of a county until a majority of the voters voting in a referendum vote affirmatively on the question of whether mixed alcoholic beverages should be sold by restaurants licensed under this title. The qualified voters of a town, county, or supervisor's election district of a county may file a petition with the circuit court of the county asking that a referendum be held on the question of whether the sale of mixed beverages by restaurants licensed by the Board should be permitted within that jurisdiction. The petition shall be signed by qualified voters equal in number to at least ten percent of the number registered in the town, county, or supervisor's election district on January 1 preceding its filing or at least 100 qualified voters, whichever is greater. *Petition requirements for any county shall be based on the number of registered voters in the county, exclusive of the number of registered voters in any town having a population in excess of 1,000 located within such county.* Upon the filing of a petition, and under no other circumstances, the court shall order the election officials of the county to conduct a referendum on the question.

The clerk of the circuit court of the county shall publish notice of the referendum in a newspaper of general circulation in the town, county, or supervisor's election district once a week for three consecutive weeks prior to the referendum.

The question on the ballot shall be:

"Shall the sale of mixed alcoholic beverages by restaurants licensed by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board be permitted in (name of town, county, or supervisor's election district of county)?"

The referendum shall be ordered and held and the results certified as provided in Article 5 (§ 24.2-681 et seq.) of Chapter 6 of Title 24.2. Thereupon the court shall enter of record an order certified by the clerk of the court to be transmitted to the Board and to the governing body of the town or county. Mixed beverages permitted to be sold by such referendum may in accordance with this title be sold by restaurants licensed by the Board within the town, county, or supervisor's election district of a county on or after thirty days following the entry of the order if a majority of the voters voting in the referendum have voted "Yes."

The provisions of this section shall be applicable to towns having a population in excess of 1,000 to the same extent and subject to the same conditions and limitations as are otherwise applicable to counties under this section. Such towns shall be treated as separate local option units, and residents of any such town shall not be eligible to vote in any referendum held pursuant to this section for any county in which the town is located.

However, the provisions of this section shall not require any town created as a result of a city-to-town reversion pursuant to Chapter 20.2 (§ 15.1-965.9 et seq.) of Title 15.1 to hold a referendum on the same question if a majority of the voters voting in the former city had previously approved the sale of mixed beverages by restaurants licensed by the Board in such city.

B. Once a referendum has been held, no other referendum on the same question shall be held in the town, county, or supervisor's election district of a county for a period of twenty-three months.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the sale of mixed beverages shall be allowed on property dedicated for industrial or commercial development and controlled through the provision of public utilities and covenanting of the land by any multijurisdictional industrial development authority, as set forth under Chapter 33 (§ 15.1-1373 et seq.) of Title 15.1, provided that (i) such authority operates under a partnership agreement between three or more counties, cities, or towns and such jurisdictions participate administratively and financially in the authority and (ii) the sale of mixed beverages is permitted in one of the member counties, cities, towns, or a supervisor's election district of one of the counties and that the governing board of the authority authorizes an establishment located within the confines of such property to apply to the Board for such license. The appropriate license fees shall be paid for this privilege.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section and subsection C of § 4.1-122, the sale of mixed beverages by licensees, and the sale of alcoholic beverages other than beer and wine not

produced by farm wineries by the Board, shall be allowed in any city in the Commonwealth.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the Board may grant a mixed beverage restaurant license to a restaurant located on the premises of and operated by a private club exclusively for its members and their guests, subject to the qualifications and restrictions on the issuance of such license imposed by § 4.1-210. However, no license authorized by this subsection shall be granted if the private club restricts its membership on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin or sex.