

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4
5 By: Senator M. Johnson

A Bill

SENATE BILL 554

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING ALCOHOLIC
9 BEVERAGES; TO AUTHORIZE BEER WHOLESALERS TO
10 DISTRIBUTE CERTAIN READY-TO-DRINK PRODUCTS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING ALCOHOLIC
16 BEVERAGES; AND TO AUTHORIZE BEER
17 WHOLESALERS TO DISTRIBUTE CERTAIN READY-
18 TO-DRINK PRODUCTS.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 3-2-409 is amended to read as follows:
24 3-2-409. Beer, malt products, or light wine.

25 (a) Every manufacturer or importer of beer or other malt products or
26 light wine doing business in the State of Arkansas shall submit to the
27 Alcoholic Beverage Control Division one (1) label for each brand of beer or
28 malt product or light wine to be shipped for the first time into or within
29 the state and shall designate within the application for registration any
30 number of wholesalers in the state, each of whom shall be the exclusive
31 distributor of such brand within the geographical territory assigned by the
32 manufacturer or importer to such wholesaler.

33 (b) Every manufacturer or importer of ready-to-drink products
34 containing spirituous liquor with an alcohol content no greater than fifteen
35 percent (15%) alcohol by weight doing business in the State of Arkansas
36 shall:



1 (1) Designate a wholesaler under § 3-2-403; or

2 (2) Submit to the division one (1) label for each brand of
 3 ready-to-drink products containing spirituous liquor with an alcohol content
 4 no greater than fifteen percent (15%) by weight to be shipped for the first
 5 time into or within the state and designate within the application for
 6 registration any number of wholesalers in the state, each of whom shall be
 7 the exclusive distributor of the brand within the geographical territory
 8 assigned by the manufacturer or importer to the wholesaler.

9 (c) Transfers of brands of malt products or light wine or changes in
 10 geographical distribution areas assigned shall not be subject to the
 11 provisions set out above for spirituous or vinous products so long as any
 12 such manufacturer or importer has complied with the filing provisions of
 13 applicable law.

14
 15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 3-5-101 is amended to read as follows:

16 3-5-101. Wholesaler of beer and light wine may sell malt liquor and
 17 certain ready-to-drink products.

18 A person, firm, or corporation having a permit to sell beer and light
 19 wine at wholesale shall be permitted to sell to liquor retailers:

20 (1) ~~malt~~ Malt liquor containing greater than five percent (5%)
 21 of alcohol by weight; and

22 (2) Ready-to-drink products containing spirituous liquor with an
 23 alcoholic content no greater than fifteen percent (15%) alcohol by weight.