

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1162

5 By: Representatives Ray, G. Hodges
6 By: Senators J. Boyd, J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING MICROBREWERY-
10 RESTAURANTS; TO AUTHORIZE MICROBREWERY-RESTAURANTS TO
11 MANUFACTURE AND SELL READY-TO-DRINK PRODUCT; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING MICROBREWERY-
16 RESTAURANTS; AND TO AUTHORIZE
17 MICROBREWERY-RESTAURANTS TO MANUFACTURE
18 AND SELL READY-TO-DRINK PRODUCT.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 3-5-1202(3), concerning the definition of
25 "beer, malt beverage, and hard cider law or rule", is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 (3) "Beer, malt beverage, ~~and~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink
28 product law or rule" means any law of this state, or any rule promulgated and
29 adopted with respect thereto, that is:

30 (A) Applicable to a person applying for or holding a
31 license to manufacture beer, malt beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink
32 product; or

33 (B) Applicable to a person applying for or holding a
34 license to sell beer, malt beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink product
35 in a restaurant for consumption on or off the licensed premises;
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 3-5-1202(5), concerning the definition of
2 "conflicting beer, malt beverage, and hard cider law or rule", is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (5) "Conflicting beer, malt beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider, or ready-
5 to-drink product law or rule" means any beer, malt beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider,
6 or ready-to-drink product law or rule that prohibits or conflicts with the
7 otherwise legal licensing and operation of microbrewery-restaurants, as
8 authorized in this subchapter, by requiring any brewer to sell only to a
9 licensed wholesaler, or requiring any licensed retailer to sell only beer,
10 malt beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink product purchased from a
11 licensed wholesaler, or prohibiting any brewer or retailer from having any
12 ownership or employment interest in the business of the other or the premises
13 of the other, or requiring that the excise and enforcement tax on beer, malt
14 beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink product manufactured by a brewer
15 be paid by a licensed wholesaler, or any beer, malt beverage, ~~or~~ hard cider,
16 or ready-to-drink product law or rule of similar direct or indirect effect;

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18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 3-5-1202, concerning definitions related to
19 microbrewery-restaurants, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read
20 as follows:

21 (12) "Ready-to-drink product" means a product containing
22 spirituous liquor with a final finished product of no greater than fifteen
23 percent (15%) alcohol by weight.

24
25 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 3-5-1203 is amended to read as follows:

26 3-5-1203. Effect on other laws.

27 Every provision of this subchapter shall be subject to all beer, malt
28 beverage, ~~and~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink product laws and rules, except
29 that conflicting beer, malt beverage, ~~and~~ hard cider, or ready-to-drink
30 product laws and rules shall be inapplicable to any provision of this
31 subchapter to the extent that they conflict herewith.

32
33 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 3-5-1204(a), concerning the scope of a
34 microbrewery-restaurant license, is amended to read as follows:

35 (a) The Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division may issue
36 a microbrewery-restaurant license which shall authorize the licensee to do

1 the following:

2 (1)(A) To:

3 (i) Operate a microbrewery which shall manufacture
4 one (1) or more varieties of beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink product, or
5 hard cider in an aggregate quantity not to exceed forty-five thousand
6 (45,000) barrels per year from all facilities under common ownership with the
7 microbrewery; and

8 (ii) Store the manufactured beer, malt beverage,
9 ready-to-drink product, or hard cider and any other beer, malt beverage,
10 ready-to-drink product, or hard cider which the microbrewery-restaurant
11 licensee may purchase from wholesalers and small brewers licensed by this
12 state on the microbrewery-restaurant licensed premises and on the premises of
13 the one (1) separate brewing facility of a microbrewery-restaurant authorized
14 under subdivision ~~(a)(9)~~(a)(10) of this section.

15 (B) Two (2) or more microbrewery-restaurants sharing
16 common ownership or a brewery of any size sharing common ownership with a
17 microbrewery-restaurant shall be considered one (1) entity for purposes of:

18 (i) Calculating barrel production; and

19 (ii) Transportation of beer, malt beverage, ready-
20 to-drink product, or hard cider produced by one (1) entity among no more than
21 three (3) microbrewery-restaurant facilities of the one (1) entity;

22 (2) To operate a restaurant which shall be the sales outlet for
23 beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink product, or hard cider manufactured by
24 the microbrewery and which shall sell the beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink
25 product, or hard cider and any other beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink
26 product, hard cider, or wine which the microbrewery-restaurant licensee may
27 purchase from wholesalers licensed by this state for consumption on the
28 licensed premises or purchased directly from licensed small brewers allowed
29 to distribute directly to the microbrewery-restaurant;

30 (3)(A) To sell on the premises beer, malt beverage, ready-to-
31 drink product, or hard cider manufactured by the microbrewery or commonly
32 owned facility in brewery-sealed packages at retail directly to the consumer
33 for off-premises consumption on any day of the week.

34 (B) A ready-to-drink product authorized for sale for off-
35 premises consumption under subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section shall be
36 sold only from the location where the ready-to-drink product is manufactured;

1 and

2 ~~(B)(4)~~ To serve on the premises complimentary samples of
3 beer, malt beverages, ready-to-drink product, or hard cider produced by the
4 microbrewery-restaurant;

5 ~~(4)(A)(5)(A)~~ To provide products it manufactures to charitable
6 or nonprofit organizations or sell for resale products it manufactures to
7 charitable or nonprofit organizations holding valid special-event permits as
8 provided for by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, except that the
9 microbrewery-restaurant licensee may not sell to nonprofit organizations
10 holding private club licenses.

11 (B) The sale of those products shall be limited to the
12 duration of the particular special event;

13 ~~(5)(6)~~ To sell beer, malt beverages, ready-to-drink product, or
14 hard cider manufactured by the microbrewery-restaurant to a nonprofit
15 corporation leasing space in the microbrewery-restaurant or in an adjoining
16 building;

17 ~~(6)(A)(7)(A)~~ To sell at retail by the drink or by the package
18 beer produced on the premises of the microbrewery-restaurant if all sales
19 occur in a wet territory and at fairs and food and beer festivals, with the
20 permission and the consent of the management of events.

21 (B) A sales and use tax permit is required for sales under
22 this subdivision ~~(a)(6)(a)(7)~~;

23 ~~(7) Sell(8)~~ To sell beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink
24 product, or hard cider of its own manufacture to a wholesale dealer licensed
25 by this state for the purpose of resale to other retail license holders as
26 set forth by §§ 3-4-605 and 3-5-101, dealing with wholesale distribution of
27 beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink product, and hard cider;

28 ~~(8)(A) Conduct(9)(A)~~ To conduct beer-, malt beverage-, ready-
29 to-drink product-, and hard cider-tasting events for educational or
30 promotional purposes at any location in wet areas of this state if:

31 (i) A request for approval to conduct a beer-, malt
32 beverage-, ready-to-drink product-, and hard cider-tasting event is received
33 by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division at least two (2) weeks before the
34 event;

35 (ii) The request is approved by the division; and

36 (iii) Written notice is given by the division to the

1 permit holder at least five (5) days before the event.

2 (B) Only beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink product, and
 3 hard cider produced by the microbrewery-restaurant shall be used for an event
 4 approved under this subdivision ~~(a)(8)(a)(9)~~.

5 (C) This subdivision ~~(a)(8)(a)(9)~~ does not authorize the
 6 conducting of a beer-, malt beverage-, ready-to-drink product-, and hard
 7 cider-tasting event at the one (1) separate brewing facility of a
 8 microbrewery-restaurant authorized under subdivision ~~(a)(9)(a)(10)~~ of this
 9 section; and

10 ~~(9)(A) Maintain~~ (10)(A) To maintain one (1) separate brewing
 11 facility for the production or storage of beer, malt liquor, ready-to-drink
 12 product, or hard cider as needed to meet demand, except that each facility
 13 used by the microbrewery-restaurant licensee shall not in the aggregate
 14 produce more than forty-five thousand (45,000) barrels of beer, malt
 15 beverage, ready-to-drink product, and hard cider per year; ~~and.~~

16 (B) Beer, malt beverage, ready-to-drink product, and hard
 17 cider produced by a separate brewing facility of a microbrewery-restaurant
 18 licensee shall be:

19 (i) Sold to a licensed wholesaler; or

20 (ii) Transported:

21 (a) From the separate brewing facility to a
 22 microbrewery-restaurant commonly owned by the owner of the separate brewing
 23 facility for retail sale for consumption on or off the licensed premises; and

24 (b) To the separate brewing facility from a
 25 microbrewery-restaurant commonly owned by the owner of the separate brewing
 26 facility for storage, production, or packaging.

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 28 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 3-5-1205 is amended to read as follows:
 29 3-5-1205. Fees and taxes.

30 A microbrewery-restaurant licensee shall:

31 (1) Pay any applicable city or county license or permit fees and
 32 barreage or taxes and shall pay a state licensing fee to the Alcoholic
 33 Beverage Control Division of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per fiscal
 34 year to manufacture and sell its beer, malt beverages, ready-to-drink
 35 product, and hard cider for consumption both on and off the premises and to
 36 sell any other beer, malt beverages, ready-to-drink product, and hard cider

1 purchased from a licensed wholesaler for consumption on the premises;

2 (2) Measure beer, malt beverages, ready-to-drink product, and
 3 hard cider manufactured by the microbrewery, otherwise comply with applicable
 4 rules respecting excise and enforcement tax determination of the beer, malt
 5 beverages, ready-to-drink product, and hard cider, and pay any applicable
 6 bond or deposit and the amount of the state excise tax and enforcement tax to
 7 this state, but free from the fees and taxes provided in § 3-5-205, and as
 8 required by §§ 3-7-104 and 3-7-111; and

9 (3) Pay a tax at the rate of seven dollars and fifty cents
 10 (\$7.50) per barrel, and proportionately for larger and smaller gallonages per
 11 barrel, on all beer, malt beverages, ready-to-drink product, and hard cider
 12 in quantities of up to forty-five thousand (45,000) barrels per year produced
 13 and sold or offered for sale in the state.

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