

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 21-50—sSB 894
General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURE, SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL-INFUSED CONFECTIONS, THE AUTHORIZATION OF SELF-POUR AUTOMATED SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR, A STUDY OF EXTENDING ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR SERVICE HOURS AND BACKERS OF GROCERY STORE BEER PERMITS

SUMMARY: This act makes several unrelated changes in the Liquor Control Act. Specifically, it allows:

1. the sale of alcohol-infused confections (e.g., chocolate), including at package stores;
2. alcoholic liquor permittees authorized to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption to use a self-pour automated system to serve beer, certain ciders, and wine; and
3. a grocery store beer permit backer to also be a backer of a restaurant permit if the restaurant's premises does not abut or share the same space as the grocery store. (By law, permittees and backers of one permit class are generally prohibited from holding a permit or being a backer in another class.)

The act also requires the Liquor Control Commission to study the potential impact of extending alcoholic liquor service hours at gaming and other establishments regulated under the Liquor Control Act and located 50 miles or less from the state border. By January 1, 2022, the commission must report its findings to the General Law Committee.

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except provisions allowing multiple backers and the sale of alcohol-infused confections are effective July 1, 2021.

ALCOHOL-INFUSED CONFECTIONS

The act requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner to (1) adopt regulations to allow the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcohol-infused confections (e.g., chocolate) containing up to 0.5% alcohol by weight and (2) approve the sale of those confections. It also allows package stores to sell the alcohol-infused confections that the commissioner approves for sale.

Relatedly, the act exempts the confections regulated by the commissioner from being considered adulterated foods under the Connecticut Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Existing law already exempts confections containing up to 0.5% alcohol by weight if the alcohol is not infused but instead is derived solely from flavoring extracts.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

SELF-POUR ALCOHOL AUTOMATED SYSTEMS

The act allows alcoholic liquor permittees authorized to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption to use a self-pour automated system to serve beer, cider with up to 6% alcohol by volume, and wine.

Under the act, the automated system, upon the permittee's activation of a payment card, may be operated to dispense beer, cider, and wine to a (1) permittee's employee who is authorized to serve alcohol or (2) person who shows a government-issued identification card that matches the name on the payment card and the permittee (or, presumably, his or her employee) verifies to be age 21 or older. The permittee or employee must record the verification that the person is at least age 21.

Under the act, automated systems cannot dispense a serving of more than 32 ounces of beer or cider or 10 ounces of wine before the permittee or employee must reactivate the payment card.

The act also requires DCP to amend its regulations by October 1, 2021, to (1) allow permittees and their employees to use self-pour automated systems to dispense beer, cider, and wine pursuant to the act; (2) ensure that automated systems do not initially dispense more than the maximum amounts at a time; and (3) ensure that someone is only allowed subsequent automated servings after he or she substantially disposes of or consumes the previous serving.