



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5149

LCO No. 756



Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:
(GL)

***AN ACT CONCERNING BEER MANUFACTURER, PACKAGE STORE
AND CONNECTICUT CRAFT CAFE PERMITTEES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 30-16 of the 2024 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

4 (b) (1) A manufacturer permit for beer shall allow the manufacture of
5 beer and the storage, bottling and wholesale distribution and sale of
6 beer manufactured or bottled on the premises of the permittee to
7 permittees in this state and without the state as may be permitted by
8 law, but no such permit shall be granted unless the place or the plan of
9 the place of manufacture has received the approval of the Department
10 of Consumer Protection. A holder of a manufacturer permit for beer
11 who sells beer brewed on such premises at wholesale to retail permittees
12 within this state shall make such beer available to all holders of a
13 package store permit issued pursuant to section 30-20, as amended by
14 this act, and to all holders of a grocery store beer permit held pursuant
15 to said section in the geographical region in which the holder of the

16 manufacturer permit for beer self distributes, subject to reasonable
17 limitations, as determined by the Department of Consumer Protection.
18 Such permit shall also allow: (A) The retail sale of such beer, and beer
19 brewed in collaboration with at least one other holder of such a permit,
20 to be consumed on the premises with or without the sale of food; (B) the
21 selling at retail from the premises of sealed bottles or other sealed
22 containers of beer brewed on such premises, or in collaboration with at
23 least one other holder of such a permit, for consumption off the
24 premises; [and] (C) the sale of sealed bottles or other sealed containers
25 of beer brewed on such premises to the holder of a wholesaler permit
26 issued pursuant to section 30-17, provided the holder of such permit
27 produces at least five thousand gallons of beer on the premises annually;
28 and (D) the retail sale and self-delivery of kegs of beer brewed on such
29 premises, including, but not limited to, kegs of beer brewed in
30 collaboration with at least one other holder of such a permit, for
31 consumption off the premises, provided no such sale and delivery shall
32 be made to a consumer (i) below cost for a retail permittee as set forth
33 in section 30-68m, or (ii) at a location that is outside of this state or within
34 this state but outside a five-mile radius of such premises. Such selling at
35 retail from the premises of sealed bottles or other sealed containers shall
36 comply with the provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91 and shall
37 permit not more than nine gallons of beer to be sold to any person on
38 any day on which such sale is authorized under the provisions of
39 subsection (d) of section 30-91. The annual fee for a manufacturer permit
40 for beer shall be one thousand four hundred dollars. For the purposes
41 of this subdivision, [and section 30-22d,] (I) "collaboration" means an
42 arrangement, other than contract brewing or an alternating
43 proprietorship, under which the holder of a manufacturer permit for
44 beer issued under this subsection works together with at least one other
45 such permit holder to manufacture beer by, among other things, sharing
46 the beer recipe or at least forty-nine per cent of the ingredients or labor
47 necessary to manufacture such beer, and (II) "keg" has the same meaning
48 as provided in section 30-114.

49 (2) A holder of a manufacturer permit for beer issued under this

50 subsection may sell and offer free tastings of beer manufactured by such
51 permittee at a farmers' market, as defined in section 22-6r, that is
52 operated as a nonprofit enterprise or association, provided such
53 farmers' market invites such holder to sell beer at such farmers' market
54 and such holder has a farmers' market sales permit issued by the
55 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of section 30-37o.

56 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 30-20 of the general statutes is
57 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
58 *2024*):

59 (b) (1) A package store permit shall allow the retail sale of alcoholic
60 liquor in sealed bottles or containers not to be consumed on the permit
61 premises. The holder of a package store permit may, in accordance with
62 regulations adopted by the Department of Consumer Protection
63 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54, (A) offer free samples of
64 alcoholic liquor for tasting on the permit premises, (B) conduct fee-
65 based wine education and tasting classes and demonstrations, [and] (C)
66 conduct tastings or demonstrations provided by a permittee or backer
67 of the package store for a nominal charge to charitable nonprofit
68 organizations, and (D) conduct fee-based spirits tastings provided by a
69 permittee or backer of the package store, provided (i) the permittee or
70 backer shall not provide to any customer more than one-half ounce of
71 any single spirit for tasting per day, and (ii) no such tasting shall be
72 provided below cost. Any offering, tasting, wine education and tasting
73 class or demonstration held on permit premises shall be conducted only
74 during the hours the package store may sell alcoholic liquor under
75 section 30-91. No tasting of wine on the permit premises shall be offered
76 from more than ten uncorked bottles at any one time. No holder, backer
77 or permittee shall offer or provide to any customer a total of more than
78 two ounces of spirits for sampling or tasting per day.

79 (2) No store operating under a package store permit shall sell any
80 commodity other than alcoholic liquor except, notwithstanding any
81 other provision of law, such store may sell (A) cigarettes and cigars, (B)
82 publications, (C) bar utensils, including, but not limited to, corkscrews,

83 beverage strainers, stirrers or other similar items used to consume, or
84 related to the consumption of, alcoholic liquor, (D) gift packages of
85 alcoholic liquor shipped into the state by a manufacturer or out-of-state
86 shipper, which gift packages may include nonalcoholic items, other than
87 food or tobacco products, if the dollar value of the nonalcoholic items in
88 such gift package does not exceed the dollar value of the alcoholic items
89 in such gift package, (E) complementary fresh fruits used in the
90 preparation of mixed alcoholic beverages, (F) cheese, crackers or both,
91 (G) olives, (H) nonalcoholic beverages, (I) concentrates used in the
92 preparation of mixed alcoholic beverages, (J) beer and wine-making kits
93 and products related to such kits, (K) ice in any form, (L) articles of
94 clothing imprinted with advertising related to the alcoholic liquor
95 industry, (M) gift baskets or other containers of alcoholic liquor, (N)
96 multiple packages of alcoholic liquors, provided in all such cases the
97 minimum retail selling price for such alcoholic liquor shall apply, (O)
98 lottery tickets authorized by the Department of Consumer Protection, if
99 licensed as an agent to sell such tickets by the department, (P) devices
100 and related accessories designed primarily for accessing and extracting
101 a beverage containing alcohol from prepackaged containers, including,
102 but not limited to, pods, pouches or similar containers, but excluding
103 devices, including, but not limited to, household blenders, that are not
104 designed primarily for such purposes, (Q) alcohol-infused confections
105 containing not more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by weight
106 and which the commissioner has approved for sale under section 21a-
107 101, and (R) gift baskets containing only containers of alcoholic liquor
108 and commodities authorized for sale under subparagraphs (A) to (Q),
109 inclusive, of this subdivision. A package store permit shall also allow
110 the taking and transmitting of orders for delivery of such merchandise
111 in other states. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a package
112 store permit shall allow the participation in any lottery ticket promotion
113 or giveaway sponsored by the department. The annual fee for a package
114 store permit shall be five hundred thirty-five dollars.

115 Sec. 3. Section 30-22d of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
116 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

117 1, 2024):

118 (a) For the purposes of this section:

119 (1) "Collaboration" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision
120 (1) of subsection (b) of section 30-16, as amended by this act; and

121 (2) "Craft cafe" means a space that (A) is located in a suitable and
122 permanent building, (B) is kept, used, maintained, advertised and held
123 out to the public to be a place where alcoholic liquor and food are served
124 at retail for consumption on the premises, (C) at all times has employed
125 therein an adequate number of employees, (D) does not include public
126 sleeping accommodations, and (E) need not necessarily have a dining
127 room or kitchen.

128 (b) A Connecticut craft cafe permit shall allow the retail sale of
129 alcoholic liquor manufactured in this state to be consumed on the
130 premises of such craft cafe. [If the holder of a Connecticut craft cafe
131 permit also holds a manufacturer permit for beer issued under
132 subsection (b) of section 30-16, such holder may sell, at retail for
133 consumption on the permit premises, any brand of beer that such holder
134 manufactured in collaboration with at least one other holder of such a
135 manufacturer permit, provided not more than one such brand of beer
136 may be sold from the permit premises at any time.] The holder of a
137 Connecticut craft cafe permit shall also hold a manufacturer permit
138 issued under section 30-16, as amended by this act, and shall keep food
139 available during the majority of the hours such permit premises are
140 open under this subsection for sale to, and consumption by, customers
141 on such permit premises. The availability of food from outside vendors
142 located on or near the permit premises, delivered either directly by such
143 outside vendors or indirectly through a third party, is sufficient to
144 satisfy such requirement. The permit premises shall at all times comply
145 with all regulations of the local department of health. Nothing in this
146 section shall be construed to require that any food be sold or purchased
147 with any alcoholic liquor, and no rule, regulation or standard shall be
148 promulgated or enforced to require that sales of food be substantial or

149 that the business's receipts from sales of alcoholic liquor equal any set
150 percentage of total receipts from all sales made on the permit premises.
151 A Connecticut craft cafe permit shall allow, with the Department of
152 Consumer Protection's prior approval and if allowed under fire, zoning
153 and health regulations, alcoholic liquor to be served at tables in outside
154 areas that are screened or not screened from public view. If fire, zoning
155 or health regulations do not require that such areas be enclosed by a
156 fence or wall, the department shall not require that such areas be so
157 enclosed. No such fence or wall shall be less than thirty inches high. A
158 Connecticut craft cafe permit shall also authorize the sale, at retail from
159 the permit premises for consumption off the permit premises, of sealed
160 containers supplied by the permittee of draught beer, including, but not
161 limited to, beer manufactured in collaboration with at least one other
162 holder of a manufacturer permit for beer issued under subsection (b) of
163 section 30-16, as amended by this act, provided not more than one
164 collaboratively manufactured brand of beer may be sold from the permit
165 premises for consumption off the permit premises at any time. Such
166 sales shall be conducted only during the hours that the holder of a
167 manufacturer permit for beer issued under subsection (b) of section 30-
168 16, as amended by this act, is permitted to sell alcoholic liquor under the
169 provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91. Not more than nine gallons
170 of such beer shall be sold to any person on any day on which the sale of
171 alcoholic liquor is authorized under the provisions of subsection (a) of
172 section 30-91. The annual fee for each Connecticut craft cafe permit shall
173 be three hundred dollars.

174 (c) The holder of a Connecticut craft cafe permit may purchase, for
175 resale on such permit holder's premises, alcoholic liquor manufactured
176 by the holder of a manufacturer permit for: (1) Spirits issued under
177 subsection (a) of section 30-16; (2) beer issued under subsection (b) of
178 section 30-16, as amended by this act; (3) a farm winery issued under
179 subsection (c) of section 30-16; or (4) wine, cider and mead issued under
180 subsection (d) of section 30-16. Such purchase for resale may be made
181 from the original manufacturer of the alcoholic liquor or from the holder
182 of a wholesaler permit issued under section 30-17 with distribution

183 rights to such alcoholic liquor. [The holder of a Connecticut craft cafe
184 permit shall not purchase the same type of alcoholic liquor such permit
185 holder manufactures from any holder of a manufacturer permit
186 specified in subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection, except any
187 holder of a Connecticut craft cafe permit that also holds the
188 manufacturer permit specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection may
189 purchase from another holder of such a manufacturer permit beer that
190 the Connecticut craft cafe permit holder manufactured in collaboration
191 with another holder of such a manufacturer permit.] The sale of such
192 alcoholic liquor shall not comprise more than twenty per cent of the
193 Connecticut craft cafe permit holder's gross annual sales of all alcoholic
194 liquor sold for on-premises consumption.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	30-16(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	30-20(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	30-22d

Statement of Purpose:

To allow (1) beer manufacturer permittees to sell and deliver kegs of beer at locations in this state that are within a five-mile radius of their permit premises, (2) package store permittees to provide fee-based spirits tastings, and (3) Connecticut craft cafe permittees to sell additional alcoholic beverages manufactured in this state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]