



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Jeff Grim

Sub. H.B. 444

131st General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Blessing, Henne, Grossman, Hambley, Brenner, Conditt, Becker, Ramos, Thompson, Perales, Manning, Buchy, Boose, Dever, Rezabek, Sheehy, Brown, Ashford, Boyd, Dovilla, Driehaus, Duffey, Lepore-Hagan, M. O'Brien, Patterson, Phillips, Rogers, Scherer, Schuring, Slesnick, Sweeney

BILL SUMMARY

- Allows A-1-A, A-1c, and certain D liquor permit holders to provide, in any 24-hour period, up to four free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 or older and a paying customer of the permit holder.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Tasting samples of alcohol

Overview

The bill allows A-1-A, A-1c, and certain D liquor permit holders to provide a paying customer with up to four tasting samples of beer, wine, or spirituous liquor in any 24-hour period, provided that the permit holder's permit authorizes the sale of the particular alcoholic beverage. The A-1-A permit generally authorizes beer and wine manufacturers to sell beer and intoxicating liquor (wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor) for on-premises consumption if certain criteria apply to the A-1-A premises. In addition, the A-1-A permit authorizes beer manufacturers to sell growlers of beer for off-premises consumption if certain conditions apply. The A-1c permit allows certain beer manufacturers to sell beer to retailers and distributors and to sell beer at retail for on-premises consumption.

D permits generally authorize retail sales of beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor or any combination for on- and off-premises consumption. The bill

specifically applies to D-1, D-2, D-2x, D-3, D-3a, D-3x, D-4, D-5, D-5a, D-5c, D-5d, D-5e, D-5f, D-5g, D-5h, D-5i, D-5j, D-5k, D-5l, D-5m, D-6, or D-7 permits.¹

Tasting sample limitations

Tasting samples are limited to two ounces of beer or wine or 1/4 ounce of spirituous liquor per sample. The permit holder must provide the tasting samples free of charge, at the permit holder's expense, and only to a person who is 21 or older. The person must consume the tasting samples on the premises of the permit holder. A distributor of beer or intoxicating liquor is not responsible for the costs of providing the tasting samples.

Current law prohibits any liquor permit holder from giving away beer or intoxicating liquor of any kind at any time in connection with the permit holder's business. The bill operates as an exception to this prohibition.²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-02-16
Reported, H. Gov't Accountability & Oversight	04-20-16
Rereported, H. Gov't Accountability & Oversight	05-18-16
Passed House (93-3)	05-24-16

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¹ R.C. 4301.22(D).

² R.C. 4301.22(D).

