

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/27/25

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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 662, L.D. 1033, "An Act to Regulate Alcoholic Beverage Competitions"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1057 is enacted to read:

§1057. Liquor judging competition event permit

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Homemade liquor" means malt liquor, wine or hard cider made by a person's own efforts in the person's home for personal use that is not offered for sale and that does not contain added spirits.

B. "Liquor judging competition event" means an event where judges evaluate entries of malt liquor, wine, hard cider or spirits, except for homemade spirits, based on a set of criteria to determine a winner of the competition.

2. Liquor judging competition event permit; eligibility. One or more certificate of approval holders that are manufacturers may apply for a permit to host a liquor judging competition event subject to the conditions prescribed by this section.

3. Liquor judging competition event participants. A certificate of approval holder or a person who produces homemade liquor that does not contain spirits may participate in the liquor judging competition event in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as a person permitted under this section.

4. Application. An applicant for a liquor judging competition event permit described in subsection 2 shall submit a written application to the bureau no later than 15 calendar days prior to the date of the liquor judging competition event. The application must include the following:

A. The name and address of each liquor judging competition event participant;

1 B. The title and purpose of the liquor judging competition event;

2 C. The date, time and duration of the liquor judging competition event;

3 D. The address and location of the liquor judging competition event, including a
4 description of the liquor judging competition event; and

5 E. The address and the location of areas where liquor for the liquor judging
6 competition event may be stored by the applicant for the liquor judging competition
7 event permit.

8 5. Fee. The permit fee for a liquor judging liquor judging competition event permit
9 under subsection 2 is \$20.

10 6. Ruling on application. Upon receipt of an application under subsection 4, the
11 bureau shall immediately approve or deny the application. The bureau shall advise
12 applicants that the permit for a liquor judging competition event under subsection 2 may
13 be suspended or revoked pursuant to chapter 33.

14 7. Up to 10 permitted liquor judging competition events per year; one liquor
15 judging competition event per permit. A person eligible for a permit under subsection 2
16 may obtain up to 10 permits under this section per calendar year.

17 8. Location and participation fee. A certificate of approval holder issued a permit
18 under this section may charge a fee for participation in a liquor judging competition event.
19 The liquor judging competition event is not required to occur on premises licensed by the
20 bureau.

21 9. Conditions. The following conditions apply to a liquor judging competition event
22 permitted under this section.

23 A. If the venue for the liquor judging competition event is currently licensed for on-
24 premises consumption of liquor, the bureau shall temporarily suspend the authority of
25 the on-premises retail licensee to sell liquor for on-premises consumption in an area
26 designated for the liquor judging competition event. The on-premises retail licensee
27 may sell liquor for on-premises consumption outside the area designated for the liquor
28 judging competition event.

29 B. The liquor judging competition event may not be open to the general public.

30 C. Only judges and stewards may taste liquor entered in a liquor judging competition
31 event. For purposes of this paragraph, "steward" means liquor judging competition
32 event staff that work with judges in conducting the liquor judging competition event.

33 D. Points of entry to the liquor judging competition event must be clearly marked and
34 monitored to ensure consumption of liquor entered in the liquor judging competition
35 event takes place only within the designated area of the liquor judging competition
36 event.

37 E. A minor may not attend the liquor judging competition event.

38 F. A person who is visibly intoxicated may not be served.

39 G. Homemade spirits may not be entered into a liquor judging competition event.

40 H. Liquor may not be sold or offered for sale at a liquor judging competition event
41 except as provided in paragraph A.

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Approved: 04/17/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1033

LR 1064(02)

An Act to Regulate Alcoholic Beverage Competitions

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-276)

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Minor revenue increase - General Fund

Minor revenue increase – Other Special Revenue Funds

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional fines will increase General Fund or other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.