

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-302)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 674, L.D. 834, Bill, "AN ACT Equalizing the Retail Price of Alcoholic Beverages throughout the State."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 28 MRSA §204, 2nd sentence, as amended by PL 1971, c. 268, §1, is further amended to read:

The commission shall sell to such licensees spirituous and vinous liquor, except table wine, for a price of 10% less than the retail price established for the state retail store where the purchase is made, ~~provided that such discount shall not apply to federal taxes levied on and after November 17, 1941.~~

Sec. 2. 28 MRSA §451, first sentence, as amended by PL 1969, c. 360, §14, is further amended to read:

All spirits and wines, except table wines, shall be sold by the commission at a price to be determined by the commission which will produce a state liquor tax of not less than 75% 40% based on the ~~less-carload-cost-f-o-r-b-7-State-Liquor-Commission warehouse~~ shipping point price, and in addition thereto there shall be levied and imposed an excise tax of 75¢ per gallon on wines containing more than 14% alcohol by volume; except that spirits and wines sold at wholesale under section 204 may be sold at wholesale prices established pursuant to the provisions thereof.

Sec. 3. 28 MRSA §451, 2nd sentence, beginning with the words "Prices for sale" is repealed.

Sec. 4. 28 MRSA §451, 5th sentence is repealed as follows:
~~Any-increased-federal-taxes-levied-on-or-after-November-17-1941 shall-be-added-to-the-established-price-without-markup.~~

Sec. 5. 28 MRSA §451, first ¶, last sentence, as amended by PL 1975, c. 646, is repealed.

Fiscal Note

The bureau calculates that if all liquor stores sold liquor at the prices in the Kittery store, there could be the following results:

1. ^{An} Approximately \$11.5 million loss; or
2. For increased consumption to offset lower prices, an increase in gross sales of approximately \$33 million.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment would provide for an equalized price of liquor throughout the State. The established price would be very close to the present price at the Kittery discount store.