

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 98

H.P. 62

House of Representatives, January 17, 1995

An Act to Allow Wine Tasting in Fine Wine Stores.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin and
Representatives: POVICH of Ellsworth, STEVENS of Orono.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1205, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1989, c.
488, is amended to read:

6 **1. Taste testing on off-premise retail licensee's premises;**
7 **fine wine stores.** Subject to the conditions in subsection 2, the
8 commission may authorize an off-premise retail licensee, 50% or
10 more of whose gross income is derived from the sale of wine or
12 malt liquor, or a fine wine store to conduct taste testings of
14 wine on that licensee's premises. Any other consumption of
alcoholic beverages on an off-premise retail licensee's premises
is prohibited.

16 **Sec. 2. 28-A MRSA §1205, sub-§2, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 1989, c.
488, is amended to read:

18 E. Taste testing ~~shall be~~ is limited to a designated area.
20 In a fine wine store, the taste testing must be conducted in
22 an area that is separate from the retail sales floor and not
readily accessible to the general public;

24 **Sec. 3. 28-A MRSA §1205,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 488, is
amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

26 For the purposes of this section, "fine wine store" means a
28 store that sells wine from at least 50% of the world's wine
regions and carries at least 500 different wine labels.

30
32 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

34 Current law allows retail liquor stores to hold wine-tasting
36 activities only if 50% or more of the store's income is from the
38 sale of wine or malt liquor. This bill defines "fine wine store"
and allows those stores to engage in wine-tasting activities.