

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 387

DATE: 4/16/97

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Reported by: Report B

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STATE OF MAINE SENATE 118TH LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 108, L.D. 387, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Wine Tasting"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

Sec. 2. 28-A MRSA §1205, sub-§2, ¶E, as amended by PL 1995, c. 30, §5, is further amended to read:

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

Sec. 3. 28-A MRSA §1205, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 30, §6, is amended to read:

For the purposes of this section, "fine wine store" means a store that sells wine from at least 50% of the world's wine regions and carries at least 500 250 different wine labels.

Sec. 4. 28-A MRSA §1355, sub-§3, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. A holder of a farm winery license, after notification to and with written approval from the bureau, may serve complimentary samples of wine produced at the winery. This activity may occur at off-premise retail licensees that are eligible to conduct wine tastings, or a farm winery may rent or lease an area or room from an on-premise retail licensee for the purpose of inviting retail licensees to taste test the wine.'

SUMMARY

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4 This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing
6 Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs. It adds provisions to
8 the bill relating to taste testing at fine wine stores. It
10 decreases the number of different wine labels that must be
12 carried at a store to qualify as a fine wine store from 500 to
250 labels. It also repeals the language requiring that taste
testing at a fine wine store be conducted in an area separate
from the retail sales floor and not readily accessible to the
general public. The amendment also allows a farm winery to
engage in taste testing its product at other retail licensees.