

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: May 21, 1999 (Filing No. S- 335 )

**LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 205, L.D. 594, Bill, "An Act to Privatize the Liquor Industry"

Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

This bill, effective January 1, 2001, requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to submit a proposal with any necessary legislation for the orderly withdrawal of existing state and agency liquor stores. The fiscal impact of this bill is dependent on that plan and the legislation to be submitted.

Alcoholic beverage wholesale and retail operations of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations generate net income of approximately \$20,000,000 annually, which is transferred to the General Fund. This bill, absent any statutory change, would eliminate that revenue source and does not provide for a replacement excise tax on spirits. This bill also repeals premium taxes collected on liquor, which will result in an additional loss of General Fund revenue of approximately \$4,832,000 annually. Some of these revenue losses will be partially offset by licensing fees, which will generate General Fund revenue in the first year of privatization totaling approximately \$175,000. Licensing revenue after the first year will be approximately \$25,000 annually.

This bill also will result in additional costs. The Bureau of Liquor Enforcement within the Department of Public Safety will also incur significant additional enforcement and licensing costs

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 205, L.D. 594

2 as a result of the privatization of liquor sales. The Bureau of  
Liquor Enforcement has estimated that it will require 2  
4 additional Liquor Enforcement Officer I positions and one  
additional Clerk Typist III position, at an approximate annual  
6 cost of \$150,000. Other costs that may be incurred by the State  
as a result of this privatization can not be determined at this  
time.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.