

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1274

H.P. 946

House of Representatives, March 11, 2003

### An Act To Promote Maine's Brewing Industry

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUDLEY of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BULL of Freeport, KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor, MAILHOT of Lewiston,  
SIMPSON of Auburn, SUSLOVIC of Portland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1205-A is enacted to read:

6 §1205-A. Taste testing of malt liquor

8 1. Taste testing on off-premises retail licensee's  
10 premises. Subject to the conditions in subsection 2, the bureau  
12 may authorize an off-premises retail licensee that stocks 75% of  
14 the available inventory of Maine-brewed malt liquor to conduct  
16 taste testings of malt liquor on that licensee's premises. Any  
18 other consumption of alcoholic beverages on an off-premises  
20 retail licensee's premises is prohibited.

22 2. Conditions on taste-testing activities. The following  
24 conditions apply to taste-testing activities under this section:

26 A. No malt liquor may be served to persons who have not yet  
28 attained 21 years of age;

30 B. No person may be served more than a total of 5 ounces of  
32 malt liquor;

34 C. No person may be charged a fee for any malt liquor  
36 served as part of a taste-testing activity;

38 D. No person may be served who is visibly intoxicated;

40 E. Taste testing is limited to a designated area;

42 F. Taste testing must be conducted within the hours of  
44 retail sale established in this Title;

46 G. The retail licensee must obtain the written permission  
48 of the bureau before conducting any taste-testing activity;

H. A retail licensee may conduct no more than one taste  
testing per month;

I. Taste testing is not allowed in any municipality where  
on-premises and off-premises sales are not allowed pursuant  
to chapter 5;

J. The retail licensee must notify the bureau of the date  
and time scheduled for an on-premises taste testing; and

K. The retail licensee must purchase all malt liquor served  
at a taste testing from a wholesale licensee.

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## SUMMARY

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6           Current law allows certain off-premises retail licensees to  
conduct wine tastings. This bill allows an off-premises retail  
licensee that stocks 75% of the available inventory of  
8   Maine-brewed malt liquor to conduct beer tastings.