

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1183

H.P. 816

House of Representatives, April 1, 2015

An Act To Strengthen the Craft Distillery Industry in Maine

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram.
Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HOBBS of Saco,
KINNEY of Limington, O'CONNOR of Berwick, PIERCE of Dresden, PRESCOTT of
Waterboro.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1651, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

3 D. For spirits purchased by the State from a small distillery that distilled the spirits in
4 the State using state-grown products, not including water, as a majority of the spirits'
5 substrate, the tax under this subsection may not exceed 18% of the price of the spirits
6 that the State pays to the small distillery. For purposes of this paragraph, "substrate"
7 means a fermentable sugary mixture from which alcohol or spirits are distilled
8 through reaction with an enzyme.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill caps the tax the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State
11 Liquor and Lottery Commission may levy on spirits produced by a distillery in the State
12 that distills 50,000 gallons per year or less at no more than 18% of the price the State
13 pays the distillery for the spirits. The bill requires that the distillery must use state-grown
14 products, not including water, as a majority of the spirits' substrate, which is the sugary
15 mixture from which alcohol or spirits are distilled.