**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 61‑4‑738 SO AS TO ALLOW THE HOLDER OF A RETAIL WINE PERMIT FOR OFF‑PREMISES CONSUMPTION WHOSE RETAIL SPACE IS AT LEAST TEN THOUSAND SQUARE FEET AND WHOSE PRIMARY PRODUCT IS NOT BEER, WINE, OR DISTILLED SPIRITS TO CONDUCT UP TO TWENTY‑FOUR WINE TASTINGS IN A CALENDAR QUARTER, AND TO PROVIDE RESTRICTIONS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 61‑4‑965 SO AS TO ALSO ALLOW THE HOLDER OF A RETAIL PERMIT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BEER FOR OFF‑PREMISES CONSUMPTION WHOSE RETAIL SPACE IS AT LEAST TEN THOUSAND SQUARE FEET AND WHOSE PRIMARY PRODUCT IS NOT BEER, WINE, OR DISTILLED SPIRITS TO CONDUCT UP TO TWENTY‑FOUR BEER TASTINGS IN A CALENDAR QUARTER, AND TO PROVIDE RESTRICTIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 4, Title 61 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 61‑4‑738. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law or regulation, the holder of a retail wine permit for off‑premises consumption whose retail space is at least ten thousand square feet and whose primary product is not beer, wine, or distilled spirits may obtain an annual wine tastings permit for each separate place of business in order to conduct, in accordance with department rulings or regulations, not more than twenty‑four wine tastings at the retail location in a calendar quarter.

(B) An annual wine tasting permit may be issued provided that:

(1) at least ten days before the tasting, a notice detailing the specific date and hours of the tasting must be sent by first class mail or by electronic mail to the State Law Enforcement Division;

(2) the tastings must be conducted by the retailer or an agent or independent contractor of the retailer and may not be conducted by a wholesaler or manufacturer or an employee, agent, or independent contractor of a wholesaler or manufacturer. Nothing in this item prohibits a manufacturer or employee, agent, or independent contractor of a manufacturer or a wholesaler or employee, agent, or independent contractor of a wholesaler from attending a tasting to provide information and offer educational material on the products to be sampled. For purposes of this item, a wholesaler is not considered an employee, agent, or independent contractor of a manufacturer;

(3) the retailer may not request from a manufacturer or wholesaler, nor may a manufacturer or wholesaler provide, neither directly or indirectly, anything of value in conjunction with the tasting, including products to be sampled, personnel to conduct the tasting, or additional products to be provided during the tasting;

(4) a sample may not be offered from more than eight products at any one tasting;

(5) no more than one container of each of the products to be sampled may be open at any time. Open containers must be visible at all times and must be removed at the conclusion of a tasting;

(6) the tasting must be held in a designated, stationary tasting area of the retail store;

(7) samples must be no more than one ounce for each product sampled as defined in Section 61‑4‑10(3);

(8) a person must not be served more than one sample of each product;

(9) a sample must not be offered to, or allowed to be consumed by, an intoxicated person or a person under the age of twenty‑one years. A person tasting a sample may not be allowed to loiter on the store premises;

(10) a sampling may not be offered for more than four hours;

(11) a retailer may not offer more than one sampling per day;

(12) the tasting may not be held in conjunction with a beer tasting pursuant to Section 61‑4‑960 or Section 61‑4‑965; and

(13) the tasting may not be held in conjunction with a tasting in a retail alcoholic liquor store pursuant to Section 61‑6‑1035 that is adjacent to and licensed in the same name of the retail permit authorizing the sale of beer.

(C) In addition to other applicable fines and penalties, a retailer who violates the provisions of this section must be assessed a fine of two hundred fifty dollars for the first violation, five hundred dollars for the second violation in the same calendar year, and one thousand dollars for the third violation in the same calendar year, except that a retailer only may be assessed with one violation at a single tasting. Subsequent violations in a calendar year are punishable by the loss of the retail off‑premises consumption permit for thirty days. The revenue from the fines established in this section must be directed to SLED for supplementing funds required for regulation and enforcement of the wine tastings.”

SECTION 2. Article 9, Chapter 4, Title 61 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 61‑4‑965. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law or regulation, the holder of a retail permit authorizing the sale of beer for off‑premises consumption whose retail space is at least ten thousand square feet and whose primary product is not beer, wine, or distilled spirits may obtain an annual beer tastings permit for each separate place of business in order to conduct, in accordance with department rulings or regulations, not more than twenty‑four beer tastings at the retail location in a calendar quarter.

(B) An annual beer tasting permit may be issued provided that:

(1) at least ten days before the tasting, a notice detailing the specific date and hours of the tasting must be sent by first class mail or by electronic mail to the State Law Enforcement Division;

(2) the tastings must be conducted by the retailer or an agent or independent contractor of the retailer and may not be conducted by a wholesaler or manufacturer or an employee, agent, or independent contractor of a wholesaler or manufacturer. Nothing in this item prohibits a manufacturer or employee, agent, or independent contractor of a manufacturer or a wholesaler or employee, agent, or independent contractor of a wholesaler from attending a tasting to provide information and offer educational material on the products to be sampled. For purposes of this item, a wholesaler is not considered an employee, agent, or independent contractor of a manufacturer;

(3) the retailer may not request from a manufacturer or wholesaler, nor may a manufacturer or wholesaler provide, neither directly or indirectly, anything of value in conjunction with the tasting; including products to be sampled, personnel to conduct the tasting, or additional products to be provided during the tasting;

(4) a sample may not be offered from more than eight products at any one tasting;

(5) no more than one container of each of the products to be sampled may be open at any time. Open containers must be visible at all times and must be removed at the conclusion of a tasting;

(6) the tasting must be held in a designated, stationary tasting area of the retail store;

(7) samples must be no more than two ounces for each product sampled as defined in Section 61‑4‑10(1);

(8) samples must be no more than one ounce for each product sampled as defined in Section 61‑4‑10(2), provided that no more than two of the total eight samples may contain more than ten percent of alcohol by weight;

(9) a person must not be served more than one sample of each product;

(10) a sample must not be offered to, or allowed to be consumed by, an intoxicated person or a person under the age of twenty‑one years. A person tasting a sample may not be allowed to loiter on the store premises;

(11) a sampling may not be offered for more than four hours;

(12) a retailer may not offer more than one sampling per day;

(13) the tasting may not be held in conjunction with a wine tasting pursuant to Section 61‑4‑737 or Section 61‑4‑738; and

(14) the tasting may not be held in conjunction with a tasting in a retail alcoholic liquor store pursuant to Section 61‑6‑1035 that is adjacent to and licensed in the same name of the retail permit authorizing the sale of beer.

(C) In addition to other applicable fines and penalties, a retailer who violates the provisions of this section must be assessed a fine of two hundred fifty dollars for the first violation, five hundred dollars for the second violation in the same calendar year, and one thousand dollars for the third violation in the same calendar year, except that a retailer only may be assessed with one violation at a single tasting. Subsequent violations in a calendar year are punishable by the loss of the retail off‑premises consumption permit for thirty days. The revenue from the fines established in this section must be directed to SLED for supplementing funds required for regulation and enforcement of the wine tastings.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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