

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_ Session, 2021. H. B. 22- 55

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To amend 4 CMC §5526 to establish a separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22<sup>ND</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant to 4  
2 CMC §5526, licenses to sell alcoholic beverages are limited to manufacturers,  
3 wholesale agents, retail dealer’s on-sale, retail dealers off-sale, and so forth. Due to  
4 ongoing technological advancements, the Legislature also finds that the option to  
5 buy and/or sell alcoholic beverages online have also become possible. Despite such  
6 possible option and pursuant to the current language of the aforementioned statute,  
7 the ability to engage in online selling alcoholic beverages is not permitted. In  
8 accordance with ongoing globalization, it is imperative to amend 4 CMC §5526 to  
9 allow for the issuance of a license for the online sale of alcoholic beverages to  
10 provide interested applicants with additional commercial opportunities. The  
11 Legislature finds that such opportunity will provide great economic convenience to

1 our Commonwealth for the benefit of future generations and commercial activities  
2 to come.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 4 CMC §5526 to establish a  
4 separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages.

5 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC §5526 is hereby amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **“§5526. Classes and Fees.**

8 The Secretary of Commerce shall have the authority to create a new Class-  
9 7 Special Liquor License and a new Class-8 Special Casino Liquor License  
10 and a new Class 9 Special Electronic Gaming Liquor License and to  
11 promulgate application filing and license fees for the following class of  
12 licenses only:

13 Class 1 Manufacturer’s License Annual Sampling Fee

14 Class 2 Wholesale Agent’s License Annual Sampling Fee

15 Class 3 Retail Dealer’s On-Sale License: Beer and Wine

16 General

17 General (if Class A Restaurant license holder) Annual Sampling Fee

18 Class 4 Retail Dealer’s Off-Sale License: Beer and Wine

19 General

20 Annual Sampling Fee

21 Class 5 Temporary Beer License

- 1           Class 6 Club License
- 2           Class 7 Special Liquor License
- 3           Class 8 Special Casino Liquor License
- 4           Class 9 Special Electronic Gaming Liquor License
- 5           Class 10 Online Alcoholic Beverage License”

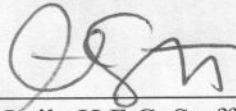
6           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
7 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
8 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
9 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
10 shall not be affected thereby.

11           **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
12 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
13 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
14 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
15 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
16 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
17 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

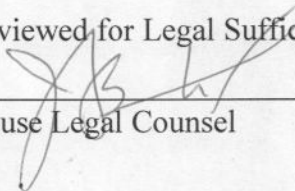
18           **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
19 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 4/20/2021

Date: 4/20/2021 Introduced by:

  
Rep. Leila H.F.C. Staffler

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel