



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1376

S.P. 570

In Senate, April 1, 2025

**An Act to Increase the Acceptable Level of Alcohol in a Low-alcohol
Spirits Product and to Increase Availability of Those Products**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 28, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §2, sub-§16-A**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 658, §18, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **16-A. Low-alcohol spirits product.** "Low-alcohol spirits product" means a product
5 containing spirits that has more than 1/2 of 1% of alcohol by volume but no more than 8%
6 15% of alcohol by volume. Beginning July 1, 2019, "low-alcohol spirits product" does not
7 mean a flavoring, such as an extract or concentrate, added to a malt beverage or wine that:

8 A. May or may not contain alcohol;

9 B. Is not intended to be consumed alone as a beverage or a food product but serves as
10 a flavor enhancement to a beverage or a food product; and

11 C. Is not, prior to being added to a malt beverage or wine, subject to excise tax under
12 chapter 65.

13 **Sec. 2. 28-A MRSA §13**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 658, §49, is
14 amended to read:

15 **§13. Low-alcohol spirits products sold by malt liquor or wine licensees**

16 **1. Retail sales.** Notwithstanding any provision of this Title to the contrary, a person
17 licensed to sell malt liquor or wine for on-premises or off-premises consumption may also
18 sell low-alcohol spirits products. All provisions of this Title applicable to malt liquor or
19 wine, except chapters 65 and 67, apply to low-alcohol spirits products when sold by persons
20 licensed to sell malt liquor or wine for on-premises or off-premises consumption.

21 **2. Wholesale sales.** Notwithstanding any provision of this Title to the contrary, a
22 person licensed under section 1401 as an in-state wholesaler of malt liquor or wine may
23 also sell and distribute low-alcohol spirits products.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill amends the definition of "low-alcohol spirits products" for the laws regarding
26 liquor by raising the maximum level of alcohol by volume of a low-alcohol spirits product
27 from 8% to 15%. The bill also provides that a low-alcohol spirits product may be sold by
28 a person licensed to sell malt liquor for on-premises and off-premises consumption. It
29 authorizes in-state wholesalers of malt liquor to sell and distribute low-alcohol spirits
30 products.