



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1612

H.P. 1221

House of Representatives, December 20, 2011

An Act Relating to the Liquor Laws Governing Off-premises Catering at Planned Public Events or Gatherings

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 16, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative HARMON of Palermo.
Cosponsored by Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo and
Representatives: LONGSTAFF of Waterville, McKANE of Newcastle, Speaker NUTTING of
Oakland, TURNER of Burlington, WILLETTE of Mapleton, Senators: COURTNEY of York,
PLOWMAN of Penobscot, SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1052, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

3 **7. Taste testing at public events.** A licensee authorized to sell alcoholic beverages
4 at a planned public event or gathering sponsored by a charitable, nonprofit organization
5 or civic group as provided by subsection 3, paragraph A may also offer malt liquor and
6 wine samples for the purpose of taste testing. For an event or gathering that includes
7 taste testing, tickets may be sold in advance or at the door at the time of the event or
8 gathering. Volunteers for the charitable, nonprofit organization or civic group may pour
9 samples for taste testing. The following conditions apply to taste testing conducted at an
10 event or gathering licensed in accordance with this section:

11 A. A licensee may not serve more than 12 4-ounce samples or any number of
12 samples that total more than 48 ounces to any one person in a day;

13 B. Each person attending the event or gathering must be given a card, tickets or some
14 other mechanism to record the number of samples consumed;

15 C. A person may not be charged a fee for samples beyond the fee for admission to
16 the event or gathering;

17 D. Minors are prohibited from attending the event or gathering unless accompanied
18 by a parent or guardian; and

19 E. A person who has reached the sample limit or is visibly intoxicated may not be
20 served.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill permits a licensee holding an off-premises catering license to conduct taste
23 testing of beer and wine at a public event or gathering sponsored by a charitable,
24 nonprofit organization or civic group. Volunteers for the sponsoring organization are
25 permitted to pour samples for taste testing and event tickets are permitted to be sold in
26 advance and at the door.