

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

S.P. 870 - L.D. 2069

**An Act to Amend the Ownership Disclosure Requirements for Applicants for
Liquor Licenses and Certificates of Approval**

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

Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §651, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 658, §92, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. An applicant shall disclose any person that holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought. If the applicant is a purchaser by contract, the applicant shall also disclose the terms of the contract.

(1) For any person that holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought and is a business entity, the applicant shall disclose any person that holds an ownership interest in that business entity that holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought.

(2) For any person that holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought and is a business entity, the applicant may attest to the bureau by affidavit that no person that holds an ownership interest in that business entity holds an ownership interest equal to or greater than 10% in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought.

Sec. 2. 28-A MRSA §651, sub-§2, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. An applicant shall disclose any person that holds an indirect financial interest in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought. For the purposes of this paragraph, "indirect financial interest" means:

(1) An option, warrant or other right to acquire an equity interest in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought; or

(2) A right to payment of, or a right to payment based upon, all or any portion of revenues, profits or losses derived from the operations under a license or certificate of approval issued under this Title of the person for which a license or certificate

of approval is sought, including, but not limited to, profit sharing, revenue sharing or royalty payments.

Sec. 3. 28-A MRSA §651, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 658, §92, is further amended to read:

3. False answer given intentionally. An applicant may not attempt to conceal or disguise ownership interest or indirect financial interest in the person for which a license or certificate of approval is sought. A person who intentionally gives an untruthful answer in an application for a license or certificate of approval under this Title violates Title 17-A, section 453. As used in this subsection, "indirect financial interest" has the same meaning as in subsection 2, paragraph A-1.

Sec. 4. 28-A MRSA §651, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Rulemaking. The bureau may adopt routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to administer this section.