

Peter Merrill  
Mexico  
LD 631

Ref. To. LD 631 HP0399.                   An Act to Allow A Home Distiller to Distill and  
Share Homemade Spiritous  
Liquor

Dear Committee Members

In 1978 President Jimmy Carter lifted restrictions on beer and wine brewing for homeowner's. It was estimated in 2017 that Craft Beer made and sold in Maine accounts for \$260 million in economic impact based on figures collected that year and published in Mainbiz. This resulted in \$595 million each year in wages and benefits.

The beer and wine brewing pretty much started in our state started with hobbyists and homebrewers working out of their own kitchens. Now some of these people would like to distill At home legally.

Today's wealth of internet sites and availability of books etc. Has given us resources for safety and sources of equipment and training making the hobby very safe.

New Zealand has been legal for 15 years and the incident rate for mishaps and accidents is .01% and cooking breakfast was much higher making it safer to distill than having bacon and eggs. The mash size limit in My bill is to make the process much safer. The limit for amounts distilled are to keep a safe storage and common sense usage.

The Federal restriction on distilling was overturned recently in Federal court in Texas, but still under State authority.

While I don't see every homeowner setting up to distill Spiritous liquor I would like the opportunity to do this as a hobby for my own use.

As I stated about beer it only takes one homeowner to become our next small business either distilling or manufacturing supplies or growing grains.

Please give us a chance.

Thank You all.           Peter A. Merrill.   Mexico, Marine