



Maine Beverage Distributors Association

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April 23, 2025

LD 1551, An Act to Support Maine Eating and Drinking Establishments by  
Allowing Vendors to Operate on the Premises of an Establishment with a Liquor  
License

Good afternoon, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Cheryl Timberlake. I am a resident of Mt. Vernon and serve as the Executive VP for the Maine Beverage Distributors Association, whose members are local family-owned independent distributors that provide beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages to retailers from every region of the state.

MBDA is testifying Neither For Nor Against LD 1551.

This bill offers an innovative approach to broadening the business opportunities for a licensed eating establishment, with new definitions for “vendor” and “host establishment”.

This “vendor” is defined under Title 22 section 2491, subsection 7 as “any place where food or drink is prepared and served to the public for consumption on the premises or prepared and served or served ready to eat to the public for consumption off the premises. “Eating establishment” includes places in the entertainment, hospitality, recreation, restaurant and tourism industries...”.

The bill permits the vendor to operate at a licensed premises, known as the “host establishment”.

Distributors facilitate alcohol sales to licensed retailers, both on and off premises. LD 1551 provides an exception or carve out to the current system. The “host establishment” is the licensee to which our members would sell beverages. MBDA wants to verify the liability issues for alcohol beverages in Section B.

Alcohol is supplied by the host establishment- but served by the vendor. The vendor is not licensed by BABLO and has no business relationship with distributors.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.