



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS

8 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0008

ELAINE CLARK
ACTING COMMISSIONER

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

LOUIS J. LUCHINI
DIRECTOR

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Re: LD 2155, An Act to Clarify Certain Laws Governing Licenses for the Sale of Liquor by Manufacturers

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: I am Louis Luchini and I'm the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. I'm here to testify neither for nor against LD 2155, An Act to Clarify Certain Laws Governing Licenses for the Sale of Liquor by Manufacturers.

Last session, the Legislature passed LD 1456, An Act to Expand the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses a Liquor Manufacturer May Be Issued. After learning of the Maine Brewers' Guild support of the legislation, the Bureau also testified in support. We were particularly supportive of increasing the number of on-premises licenses that a liquor manufacturer may own, from one to three. We viewed this as a way to simplify the licensing process for businesses while also reducing the associated regulatory costs.

LD 2155 proposes to increase the number of on-premises licenses per manufacturer to 12. There is also a grandfathering type clause that exempts any licensees that were issued a license prior to May 23, 2025. We believe this clause is overbroad, and from a regulatory perspective, would question what requirements would apply for a manufacturer issued a license before this date.

We also want to flag one technical issue in Section 1 of the bill. First, it states that a person with majority ownership interest in a manufacturing licensee may have majority ownership interest in up to 12 retail licenses. Further in the paragraph, the bill states that a person with majority ownership in two manufacturing licenses may have majority ownership in 12 retail licenses, provided that they manufacture up to 1,000 barrels of liquor per year. These two sentences seem to conflict. Should the Legislature choose to move forward with this bill, we would ask for clarification from a regulatory perspective.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.