

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2015-2016**

**H. B. No. 68**

**Representative Ramos**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Henne, Becker, Antonio, Retherford, Driehaus,  
Lepore-Hagan, Phillips, Blessing, Sheehy, Roegner, Reece, Brenner**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 4301.01 and to enact section 1  
4301.71 of the Revised Code to allow beer 2  
manufacturers to manufacture beer containing not 3  
more than 21% of alcohol by volume beginning on 4  
the effective date of this act, and, beginning 5  
one year after the effective date of this act, 6  
to allow the sale and distribution of beer 7  
containing not more than 21% of alcohol by 8  
volume in this state by increasing the legally 9  
permitted alcohol content of beer from 12% to 10  
21% and to generally prohibit the inclusion of 11  
caffeine or other stimulants in beer containing 12  
more than 12% of alcohol by volume. 13

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 4301.01 be amended and section 14  
4301.71 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 15

**Sec. 4301.01.** (A) As used in the Revised Code: 16

(1) "Intoxicating liquor" and "liquor" include all liquids 17  
and compounds, other than beer, containing one-half of one per 18

cent or more of alcohol by volume which are fit to use for 19  
beverage purposes, from whatever source and by whatever process 20  
produced, by whatever name called, and whether they are 21  
medicated, proprietary, or patented. "Intoxicating liquor" and 22  
"liquor" include cider and alcohol, and all solids and 23  
confections which contain one-half of one per cent or more of 24  
alcohol by volume. 25

(2) Except as used in sections 4301.01 to 4301.20, 4301.22 26  
to 4301.52, 4301.56, 4301.70, 4301.72, and 4303.01 to 4303.36 of 27  
the Revised Code, "sale" and "sell" include exchange, barter, 28  
gift, offer for sale, sale, distribution and delivery of any 29  
kind, and the transfer of title or possession of beer and 30  
intoxicating liquor either by constructive or actual delivery by 31  
any means or devices whatever, including the sale of beer or 32  
intoxicating liquor by means of a controlled access alcohol and 33  
beverage cabinet pursuant to section 4301.21 of the Revised 34  
Code. "Sale" and "sell" do not include the mere solicitation of 35  
orders for beer or intoxicating liquor from the holders of 36  
permits issued by the division of liquor control authorizing the 37  
sale of the beer or intoxicating liquor, but no solicitor shall 38  
solicit any such orders until the solicitor has been registered 39  
with the division pursuant to section 4303.25 of the Revised 40  
Code. 41

(3) "Vehicle" includes all means of transportation by 42  
land, by water, or by air, and everything made use of in any way 43  
for such transportation. 44

(B) As used in this chapter: 45

(1) "Alcohol" means ethyl alcohol, whether rectified or 46  
diluted with water or not, whatever its origin may be, and 47  
includes synthetic ethyl alcohol. "Alcohol" does not include 48

denatured alcohol and wood alcohol.	49
(2) "Beer" includes all beverages brewed or fermented wholly or in part from malt products and containing one-half of one per cent or more, but not more than <del>twelve</del> <u>twenty-one</u> per cent, of alcohol by volume.	50 51 52 53
(3) "Wine" includes all liquids fit to use for beverage purposes containing not less than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by volume and not more than twenty-one per cent of alcohol by volume, which is made from the fermented juices of grapes, fruits, or other agricultural products, except that as used in sections 4301.13, 4301.421, 4301.422, 4301.432, and 4301.44 of the Revised Code, and, for purposes of determining the rate of the tax that applies, division (B) of section 4301.43 of the Revised Code, "wine" does not include cider.	54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62
(4) "Mixed beverages" include bottled and prepared cordials, cocktails, highballs, and solids and confections that are obtained by mixing any type of whiskey, neutral spirits, brandy, gin, or other distilled spirits with, or over, carbonated or plain water, pure juices from flowers and plants, and other flavoring materials. The completed product shall contain not less than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by volume and not more than twenty-one per cent of alcohol by volume.	63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71
(5) "Spirituous liquor" includes all intoxicating liquors containing more than twenty-one per cent of alcohol by volume.	72 73
(6) "Sealed container" means any container having a capacity of not more than one hundred twenty-eight fluid ounces, the opening of which is closed to prevent the entrance of air.	74 75 76
(7) "Person" includes firms and corporations.	77

(8) "Manufacture" includes all processes by which beer or 78  
intoxicating liquor is produced, whether by distillation, 79  
rectifying, fortifying, blending, fermentation, or brewing, or 80  
in any other manner. 81

(9) "Manufacturer" means any person engaged in the 82  
business of manufacturing beer or intoxicating liquor. 83

(10) "Wholesale distributor" and "distributor" means a 84  
person engaged in the business of selling to retail dealers for 85  
purposes of resale. 86

(11) "Hotel" has the same meaning as in section 3731.01 of 87  
the Revised Code, subject to the exceptions mentioned in section 88  
3731.03 of the Revised Code. 89

(12) "Restaurant" means a place located in a permanent 90  
building provided with space and accommodations wherein, in 91  
consideration of the payment of money, hot meals are habitually 92  
prepared, sold, and served at noon and evening, as the principal 93  
business of the place. "Restaurant" does not include pharmacies, 94  
confectionery stores, lunch stands, night clubs, and filling 95  
stations. 96

(13) "Club" means a corporation or association of 97  
individuals organized in good faith for social, recreational, 98  
benevolent, charitable, fraternal, political, patriotic, or 99  
athletic purposes, which is the owner, lessor, or occupant of a 100  
permanent building or part of a permanent building operated 101  
solely for those purposes, membership in which entails the 102  
prepayment of regular dues, and includes the place so operated. 103

(14) "Night club" means a place operated for profit, where 104  
food is served for consumption on the premises and one or more 105  
forms of amusement are provided or permitted for a consideration 106

that may be in the form of a cover charge or may be included in 107  
the price of the food and beverages, or both, purchased by 108  
patrons. 109

(15) "At retail" means for use or consumption by the 110  
purchaser and not for resale. 111

(16) "Pharmacy" means an establishment, as defined in 112  
section 4729.01 of the Revised Code, that is under the 113  
management or control of a licensed pharmacist in accordance 114  
with section 4729.27 of the Revised Code. 115

(17) "Enclosed shopping center" means a group of retail 116  
sales and service business establishments that face into an 117  
enclosed mall, share common ingress, egress, and parking 118  
facilities, and are situated on a tract of land that contains an 119  
area of not less than five hundred thousand square feet. 120  
"Enclosed shopping center" also includes not more than one 121  
business establishment that is located within a free-standing 122  
building on such a tract of land, so long as the sale of beer 123  
and intoxicating liquor on the tract of land was approved in an 124  
election held under former section 4301.353 of the Revised Code. 125

(18) "Controlled access alcohol and beverage cabinet" 126  
means a closed container, either refrigerated, in whole or in 127  
part, or nonrefrigerated, access to the interior of which is 128  
restricted by means of a device that requires the use of a key, 129  
magnetic card, or similar device and from which beer, 130  
intoxicating liquor, other beverages, or food may be sold. 131

(19) "Community facility" means either of the following: 132

(a) Any convention, sports, or entertainment facility or 133  
complex, or any combination of these, that is used by or 134  
accessible to the general public and that is owned or operated 135

in whole or in part by the state, a state agency, or a political 136  
subdivision of the state or that is leased from, or located on 137  
property owned by or leased from, the state, a state agency, a 138  
political subdivision of the state, or a convention facilities 139  
authority created pursuant to section 351.02 of the Revised 140  
Code; 141

(b) An area designated as a community entertainment 142  
district pursuant to section 4301.80 of the Revised Code. 143

(20) "Low-alcohol beverage" means any brewed or fermented 144  
malt product, or any product made from the fermented juices of 145  
grapes, fruits, or other agricultural products, that contains 146  
either no alcohol or less than one-half of one per cent of 147  
alcohol by volume. The beverages described in division (B) (20) 148  
of this section do not include a soft drink such as root beer, 149  
birch beer, or ginger beer. 150

(21) "Cider" means all liquids fit to use for beverage 151  
purposes that contain one-half of one per cent of alcohol by 152  
volume, but not more than six per cent of alcohol by weight, and 153  
that are made through the normal alcoholic fermentation of the 154  
juice of sound, ripe apples, including, without limitation, 155  
flavored, sparkling, or carbonated cider and cider made from 156  
pure condensed apple must. 157

(22) "Sales area or territory" means an exclusive 158  
geographic area or territory that is assigned to a particular A 159  
or B permit holder and that either has one or more political 160  
subdivisions as its boundaries or consists of an area of land 161  
with readily identifiable geographic boundaries. "Sales area or 162  
territory" does not include, however, any particular retail 163  
location in an exclusive geographic area or territory that had 164  
been assigned to another A or B permit holder before April 9, 165

2001. 166

Sec. 4301.71. Except as otherwise provided in this 167  
section, no beer containing more than twelve per cent of alcohol 168  
by volume shall include caffeine or other stimulants, including 169  
guarana, ginseng, or taurine. 170

This section does not apply to beer that has incidental 171  
amounts of caffeine from coffee, chocolate, or tea. 172

**Section 2.** That existing section 4301.01 of the Revised 173  
Code is hereby repealed. 174

**Section 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect 175  
one year after the effective date of this act. 176

**Section 4.** Notwithstanding section 4303.02 or 4303.022 of 177  
the Revised Code, on the effective date of this act, the holder 178  
of an A-1 or A-1c permit may manufacture beer containing not 179  
more than twenty-one per cent of alcohol by volume. Nothing in 180  
this section authorizes any person to sell or distribute beer in 181  
this state containing more than twelve per cent of alcohol by 182  
volume prior to one year after the effective date of this act. 183