

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 86**

**Representative LaRe**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Carruthers, Stein, Miller, J., Schmidt, Brennan,  
Barhorst, Miller, A.**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 4301.17, 4301.171, 4303.041, 1  
4303.184, and 4399.15 of the Revised Code to 2  
revise specified provisions of the liquor 3  
control laws. 4

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

**Section 1.** That sections 4301.17, 4301.171, 4303.041, 5  
4303.184, and 4399.15 of the Revised Code be amended to read as 6  
follows: 7

**Sec. 4301.17.** (A) (1) Subject to local option as provided 8  
in sections 4301.32 to 4301.40 of the Revised Code, five state 9  
liquor stores or agencies may be established in each county. One 10  
additional store may be established in any county for each 11  
twenty thousand of population of that county or major fraction 12  
thereof in excess of the first forty thousand, according to the 13  
last preceding federal decennial census or according to the 14  
population estimates certified by the department of development 15  
between decennial censuses. A person engaged in a mercantile 16  
business may act as the agent for the division of liquor control 17  
for the sale of spirituous liquor in a municipal corporation, in 18

the unincorporated area of a township, or in an area designated 19  
and approved as a resort area under section 4303.262 of the 20  
Revised Code. The division shall fix the compensation for such 21  
an agent in the manner it considers best, but the compensation 22  
shall not exceed seven per cent of the gross sales made by the 23  
agent in any one year. 24

(2) The division shall adopt rules in accordance with 25  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code governing the allocation and 26  
equitable distribution of agency store contracts. The division 27  
shall comply with the rules when awarding a contract under 28  
division (A) (1) of this section. 29

(3) Pursuant to an agency store's contract, an agency 30  
store may be issued a D-1 permit to sell beer, a D-2 permit to 31  
sell wine and mixed beverages, and a D-5 permit to sell beer, 32  
wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor. 33

(4) Pursuant to an agency store's contract, an agency 34  
store may be issued a D-3 permit to sell spirituous liquor if 35  
the agency store contains at least ten thousand square feet of 36  
sales floor area. A D-3 permit issued to an agency store shall 37  
not be transferred to a new location. The division shall revoke 38  
any D-3 permit issued to an agency store under division (A) (4) 39  
of this section if the agent no longer operates the agency 40  
store. The division shall not issue a D-3a permit to an agency 41  
store. 42

(5) An agency store to which a D-8 permit has been issued 43  
may allow the ~~sale~~consumption of tasting samples of spirituous 44  
liquor in accordance with section 4301.171 of the Revised Code. 45

(6) An agency store may sell beer, wine, mixed beverages, 46  
and spirituous liquor only between the hours of nine a.m. and 47

eleven p.m. 48

(B) When an agency contract is proposed, when an existing 49  
agency contract is assigned, when an existing agency proposes to 50  
relocate, or when an existing agency is relocated and assigned, 51  
before entering into any contract, consenting to any assignment, 52  
or consenting to any relocation, the division shall notify the 53  
legislative authority of the municipal corporation in which the 54  
agency store is to be located, or the board of county 55  
commissioners and the board of township trustees of the county 56  
and the township in which the agency store is to be located if 57  
the agency store is to be located outside the corporate limits 58  
of a municipal corporation, of the proposed contract, 59  
assignment, or relocation, and an opportunity shall be provided 60  
officials or employees of the municipal corporation or county 61  
and township for a complete hearing upon the advisability of 62  
entering into the contract or consenting to the assignment or 63  
relocation. When the division sends notice to the legislative 64  
authority of the political subdivision, the division shall 65  
notify, by certified mail or by personal service, the chief 66  
peace officer of the political subdivision, who may appear and 67  
testify, either in person or through a representative, at any 68  
hearing held on the advisability of entering into the contract 69  
or consenting to the assignment or relocation. 70

If the proposed agency store, the assignment of an agency 71  
contract, or the relocation of an agency store would be located 72  
within five hundred feet of a school, church, library, public 73  
playground, or township park, the division shall not enter into 74  
an agency contract until it has provided notice of the proposed 75  
contract to the authorities in control of the school, church, 76  
library, public playground, or township park and has provided 77  
those authorities with an opportunity for a complete hearing 78

upon the advisability of entering into the contract. If an 79  
agency store so located is operating under an agency contract, 80  
the division may consent to relocation of the agency store or to 81  
the assignment of that contract to operate an agency store at 82  
the same location. The division may also consent to the 83  
assignment of an existing agency contract simultaneously with 84  
the relocation of the agency store. In any such assignment or 85  
relocation, the assignee and the location shall be subject to 86  
the same requirements that the existing location met at the time 87  
that the contract was first entered into as well as any 88  
additional requirements imposed by the division in rules adopted 89  
by the superintendent of liquor control. The division shall not 90  
consent to an assignment or relocation of an agency store until 91  
it has notified the authorities in control of the school, 92  
church, library, public playground, or township park and has 93  
provided those authorities with an opportunity for a complete 94  
hearing upon the advisability of consenting to the assignment or 95  
relocation. 96

Any hearing provided for in this division shall be held in 97  
the central office of the division, except that upon written 98  
request of the legislative authority of the municipal 99  
corporation, the board of county commissioners, the board of 100  
township trustees, or the authorities in control of the school, 101  
church, library, public playground, or township park, the 102  
hearing shall be held in the county seat of the county where the 103  
proposed agency store is to be located. 104

(C) All agency contracts entered into by the division 105  
pursuant to this section shall be in writing and shall contain a 106  
clause providing for the termination of the contract at will by 107  
the division upon its giving ninety days' notice in writing to 108  
the agent of its intention to do so. Any agency contract may 109

include a clause requiring the agent to report to the 110  
appropriate law enforcement agency the name and address of any 111  
individual under twenty-one years of age who attempts to make an 112  
illegal purchase. 113

The division shall issue a C-1 and C-2 permit to each 114  
agent who prior to November 1, 1994, had not been issued both of 115  
these permits, notwithstanding the population quota restrictions 116  
contained in section 4303.29 of the Revised Code or in any rule 117  
of the liquor control commission and notwithstanding the 118  
requirements of section 4303.31 of the Revised Code. The 119  
location of a C-1 or C-2 permit issued to such an agent shall 120  
not be transferred. The division shall revoke any C-1 or C-2 121  
permit issued to an agent under this paragraph if the agent no 122  
longer operates an agency store. 123

The division may enter into agreements with the department 124  
of development to implement a minority loan program to provide 125  
low-interest loans to minority business enterprises, as defined 126  
in section 122.71 of the Revised Code, that are awarded liquor 127  
agency contracts or assignments. 128

(D) If the division closes a state liquor store and 129  
replaces that store with an agency store, any employees of the 130  
division employed at that state liquor store who lose their jobs 131  
at that store as a result shall be given preference by the agent 132  
who operates the agency store in filling any vacancies that 133  
occur among the agent's employees, if that preference does not 134  
conflict with the agent's obligations pursuant to a collective 135  
bargaining agreement. 136

If the division closes a state liquor store and replaces 137  
the store with an agency store, any employees of the division 138  
employed at the state liquor store who lose their jobs at that 139

store as a result may displace other employees as provided in 140  
sections 124.321 to 124.328 of the Revised Code. If an employee 141  
cannot displace other employees and is laid off, the employee 142  
shall be reinstated in another job as provided in sections 143  
124.321 to 124.328 of the Revised Code, except that the 144  
employee's rights of reinstatement in a job at a state liquor 145  
store shall continue for a period of two years after the date of 146  
the employee's layoff and shall apply to jobs at state liquor 147  
stores located in the employee's layoff jurisdiction and any 148  
layoff jurisdiction adjacent to the employee's layoff 149  
jurisdiction. 150

(E) The division shall require every agent to give bond 151  
with surety to the satisfaction of the division, in the amount 152  
the division fixes, conditioned for the faithful performance of 153  
the agent's duties as prescribed by the division. 154

**Sec. 4301.171.** (A) As used in this section: 155

(1) "Broker" and "solicitor" have the same meanings as in 156  
rules adopted by the superintendent of liquor control under 157  
section 4303.25 of the Revised Code. 158

(2) "Tasting sample" means a small amount of spirituous 159  
liquor that is provided in a serving of not more than a quarter 160  
ounce of spirituous liquor and, if provided, not more than one 161  
ounce of nonalcoholic mixer to an authorized ~~purchaser~~person 162  
and that allows the ~~purchaser~~person to determine, by tasting 163  
only, the quality and character of the beverage. 164

(3) "Trade marketing company" means a company that 165  
solicits the purchase of beer and intoxicating liquor and 166  
educates the public about beer and intoxicating liquor. 167

(4) "Trade marketing professional" means an individual who 168

is an employee of, or is under contract with, a trade marketing 169  
company and who has successfully completed a training program 170  
described in section 4301.253 of the Revised Code. 171

(B) Notwithstanding section 4301.24 of the Revised Code, 172  
an agency store to which a D-8 permit has been issued may allow 173  
a trade marketing professional, broker, or solicitor to offer 174  
~~for sale~~ tasting samples of spirituous liquor when conducted in 175  
accordance with this section. A tasting sample shall not be ~~sold~~ 176  
provided for the purpose of general consumption. 177

(C) Tasting samples of spirituous liquor may be offered 178  
~~for sale~~ at an agency store by a trade marketing professional, 179  
broker, or solicitor if all of the following apply: 180

(1) The tasting samples are ~~sold~~ provided only in the area 181  
of the agency store in which spirituous liquor is sold and that 182  
area is open to the public. 183

(2) The tasting samples are ~~sold~~ provided only by the 184  
trade marketing professional, broker, or solicitor. 185

(3) The spirituous liquor is registered under division (A) 186  
(8) of section 4301.10 of the Revised Code. 187

(4) Not less than ten business days prior to the 188  
~~salesampling~~, the trade marketing professional, broker, or 189  
solicitor has provided written notice to the division of liquor 190  
control of the date and time of the sampling, and of the type 191  
and brand of spirituous liquor to be sampled at the agency 192  
store. 193

(D) ~~A sale~~ The provision of tasting samples of spirituous 194  
liquor is subject to rules adopted by the superintendent of 195  
liquor control or the liquor control commission. 196



<del>purchase or</del> consume a tasting sample while on duty.	226
(J) If an employee of an agency store that allows the <del>sale-</del>	227
<u>consumption</u> of tasting samples of spirituous liquor consumes a	228
tasting sample of spirituous liquor, the employee shall not	229
perform the employee's duties and responsibilities at the agency	230
store on the day the tasting sample is consumed.	231
(K) No person under twenty-one years of age shall consume	232
a tasting sample of spirituous liquor.	233
(L) Not more than ten events at which <del>the sale of</del> tasting	234
samples of spirituous liquor are offered shall occur at an	235
agency store in a calendar month provided that:	236
(1) Not more than two events shall occur in the same day;	237
and	238
(2) There is not less than one hour between the end of one	239
event and the beginning of the next event.	240
(M) No trade marketing professional, trade marketing	241
company, broker, solicitor, owner or operator of an agency	242
store, or an agent or employee of the owner or operator shall	243
violate this section or any rules adopted by the superintendent	244
or the commission for the purposes of this section.	245
<b>Sec. 4303.041.</b> (A) An A-3a permit may be issued to a	246
distiller that manufactures less than <del>one hundred thousand one</del>	247
<u>million</u> gallons of spirituous liquor per year. An A-3a permit	248
holder may sell to a personal consumer, in sealed containers for	249
consumption off the premises where manufactured, spirituous	250
liquor that the permit holder manufactures, but sales to the	251
personal consumer may occur only by an in-person transaction at	252
the permit premises. The A-3a permit holder shall not ship,	253
send, or use an H permit holder to deliver spirituous liquor to	254

the personal consumer. 255

"Distiller" means a person in this state who mashes, 256  
ferments, distills, and ages spirituous liquor. 257

(B) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no A- 258  
3a permit shall be issued unless the sale of spirituous liquor 259  
by the glass for consumption on the premises or by the package 260  
for consumption off the premises is authorized in the election 261  
precinct in which the A-3a permit is proposed to be located. 262

(2) Division (B) (1) of this section does not prohibit the 263  
issuance of an A-3a permit to an applicant for such a permit who 264  
has filed an application with the division of liquor control 265  
before March 22, 2012. 266

(C) (1) An A-3a permit holder may offer for sale tasting 267  
samples of spirituous liquor. The A-3a permit holder shall not 268  
serve more than four tasting samples of spirituous liquor per 269  
person per day. A tasting sample shall not exceed a quarter 270  
ounce. Tasting samples shall be only for the purpose of allowing 271  
a purchaser to determine, by tasting only, the quality and 272  
character of the spirituous liquor. The tasting samples shall be 273  
offered for sale in accordance with rules adopted by the 274  
division of liquor control. 275

(2) An A-3a permit holder shall sell not more than three 276  
liters of spirituous liquor per day from the permit premises to 277  
the same personal consumer. 278

An A-3a permit holder may sell spirituous liquor in sealed 279  
containers for consumption off the premises where manufactured 280  
as an independent contractor under agreement, by virtue of the 281  
permit, with the division of liquor control. The price at which 282  
the A-3a permit holder shall sell each spirituous liquor product 283

to a personal consumer is to be determined by the division of 284  
liquor control. For an A-3a permit holder to purchase and then 285  
offer spirituous liquor for retail sale, the spirituous liquor 286  
need not first leave the physical possession of the A-3a permit 287  
holder to be so registered. The spirituous liquor that the A-3a 288  
permit holder buys from the division of liquor control shall be 289  
maintained in a separate area of the permit premises for sale to 290  
personal consumers. The A-3a permit holder shall sell such 291  
spirituous liquor in sealed containers for consumption off the 292  
premises where manufactured as an independent contractor by 293  
virtue of the permit issued by the division of liquor control, 294  
but the permit holder shall not be compensated as provided in 295  
division (A) (1) of section 4301.17 of the Revised Code. Each A- 296  
3a permit holder shall be subject to audit by the division of 297  
liquor control. 298

(D) The fee for the A-3a permit is two dollars per fifty- 299  
gallon barrel. 300

(E) The holder of an A-3a permit may also exercise the 301  
same privileges as the holder of an A-3 permit. 302

**Sec. 4303.184.** (A) Subject to division (B) of this 303  
section, a D-8 permit may be issued to any of the following: 304

(1) An agency store; 305

(2) The holder of a C-1, C-2, or C-2x permit issued to a 306  
retail store that has any of the following characteristics: 307

(a) The store has at least five thousand five hundred 308  
square feet of floor area, and it generates more than sixty per 309  
cent of its sales in general merchandise items and food for 310  
consumption off the premises where sold. 311

(b) The store is located in a municipal corporation or 312

township with a population of five thousand or less, has at 313  
least four thousand five hundred square feet of floor area, and 314  
generates more than sixty per cent of its sales in general 315  
merchandise items and food for consumption off the premises 316  
where sold. 317

(c) Wine constitutes at least sixty per cent of the value 318  
of the store's inventory. 319

(3) The holder of both a C-1 and C-2 permit, or the holder 320  
of a C-2x permit, issued to a retail store that is located 321  
within a municipal corporation or township with a population of 322  
fifteen thousand or less. 323

(B) A D-8 permit may be issued to the holder of a C-1, C- 324  
2, or C-2x permit only if the premises of the permit holder are 325  
located in a precinct, or at a particular location in a 326  
precinct, in which the sale of beer, wine, or mixed beverages is 327  
permitted for consumption off the premises where sold. Sales 328  
under a D-8 permit are not affected by whether sales for 329  
consumption on the premises where sold are permitted in the 330  
precinct or at the particular location where the D-8 premises 331  
are located. 332

(C) (1) The holder of a D-8 permit described in division 333  
(A) (2) or (3) of this section may sell tasting samples of beer, 334  
wine, and mixed beverages, but not spirituous liquor, at retail, 335  
for consumption on the premises where sold in an amount not to 336  
exceed two ounces or another amount designated by rule of the 337  
liquor control commission. A tasting sample shall not be sold 338  
for general consumption. 339

(2) The holder of a D-8 permit described in division (A) 340  
(1) of this section may allow the ~~sale~~consumption of tasting 341

samples of spirituous liquor in accordance with section 4301.171 342  
of the Revised Code. 343

(3) No D-8 permit holder described in division (A) (2) or 344  
(3) of this section shall allow any authorized purchaser to 345  
consume more than four tasting samples of beer, wine, or mixed 346  
beverages, or any combination of beer, wine, or mixed beverages, 347  
per day. 348

(D) (1) Notwithstanding sections 4303.11 and 4303.121 of 349  
the Revised Code, the holder of a D-8 permit described in 350  
division (A) (2) or (3) of this section may sell beer that is 351  
dispensed from containers that have a capacity equal to or 352  
greater than five and one-sixth gallons if all of the following 353  
conditions are met: 354

(a) A product registration fee for the beer has been paid 355  
as required in division (A) (8) (b) of section 4301.10 of the 356  
Revised Code. 357

(b) The beer is dispensed only in glass containers whose 358  
capacity does not exceed one gallon and not for consumption on 359  
the premises where sold. 360

(c) The containers are sealed, marked, and transported in 361  
accordance with division (E) of section 4301.62 of the Revised 362  
Code. 363

(d) The containers have been cleaned immediately before 364  
being filled in accordance with rule 4301:1-1-28 of the 365  
Administrative Code. 366

(2) Beer that is sold and dispensed under division (D) (1) 367  
of this section is subject to both of the following: 368

(a) All applicable rules adopted by the liquor control 369

commission, including, but not limited to, rule 4301:1-1-27 and	370
rule 4301:1-1-72 of the Administrative Code;	371
(b) All applicable federal laws and regulations.	372
(E) The privileges authorized for the holder of a D-8	373
permit described in division (A) (2) or (3) of this section may	374
only be exercised in conjunction with and during the hours of	375
operation authorized by a C-1, C-2, C-2x, or D-6 permit.	376
(F) A D-8 permit shall not be transferred to another	377
location.	378
(G) The fee for the D-8 permit is five hundred dollars.	379
<b>Sec. 4399.15.</b> No person, for the purpose of sale, shall	380
adulterate spirituous liquor, alcoholic liquor, or beer used or	381
intended for drink or medicinal or mechanical purposes, with	382
cocculus indicus, vitriol, <del>grains of paradise,</del> opium, alum,	383
capsicum, copperas, laurel water, logwood, Brazilwood,	384
cochineal, sugar of lead, aloes, glucose, tannic acid, or any	385
other substance that is poisonous or injurious to health, or	386
with a substance not a necessary ingredient in the manufacture	387
of the spirituous liquor, alcoholic liquor, or beer, or sell,	388
offer, or keep for sale spirituous liquor, alcoholic liquor, or	389
beer that is so adulterated.	390
In addition to the penalties provided in division (E) of	391
section 4399.99 of the Revised Code, a person convicted of	392
violating this section shall pay all necessary costs and	393
expenses incurred in inspecting and analyzing spirituous liquor,	394
alcoholic liquor, or beer that is so adulterated, sold, kept, or	395
offered for sale.	396
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing sections 4301.17, 4301.171,	397
4303.041, 4303.184, and 4399.15 of the Revised Code are hereby	398

repealed.

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