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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 305
2	INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY, K. ZOLNIKOV, L. JONES, M. HOPKINS, C. SPRUNGER
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING ALCOHOL LICENSE LAWS RELATING
5	TO MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS; ALLOWING A LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR LICENSED BREWERS
6	DISTILLERS, AND WINERIES TO HOLD RETAIL LICENSES; ALLOWING A LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR
7	RETAIL LICENSEES TO HOLD A BREWER, DISTILLER, OR WINERY LICENSE; PROVIDING LIMITATIONS
8	PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 16-3-213, 16-3-214, 16-3-241, 16-3-242, 16-3-244, 16-3-
9 10	311, 16-3-411, 16-4-311, AND 16-4-401, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
11 12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
13	Section 1. Section 16-3-213, MCA, is amended to read:
14	"16-3-213. Brewers or beer importers not to retail beer small brewery exceptions. (1) Except
15	as provided for small breweries in subsection (2) and except as provided in 16-4-401(10), it is unlawful for any
16	brewer or breweries or beer importer to have or own any permit to sell or retail beer at any place or premises. I
17	is the intention of this section to prohibit brewers and beer importers from engaging in the retail sale of beer.
18	This section does not prohibit breweries from selling and delivering beer manufactured by them, in original
19	packages, at either wholesale or retail.
20	(2) (a) For the purposes of this section, a "small brewery" is a brewery that has an annual
21	nationwide production of not less than 100 barrels or more than 60,000 barrels, including:
22	(i) the production of all affiliated manufacturers; and
23	(ii) beer purchased from any other beer producer to be sold by the brewery.
24	(b) A small brewery may, at one location for each brewery license and at no more than three
25	locations including affiliated manufacturers, provide samples of beer that were brewed and fermented on the
26	premises in a sample room located on the licensed premises. The samples may be provided with or without
27	charge between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. No more than 48 ounces of malt beverage may be sold or



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1	(iii) must provide and serve through the colocated retail license alcohol produced by other
2	manufacturers that are not affiliated or financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in the conduct or
3	operation of the business in which the license was issued pursuant to 16-4-104 16-4-105 and 16-4-201, or the
4	licensed brewery, winery, or distillery.
5	(e) Colocated licensees may transfer beer manufactured, liquor distilled, or wine produced by the
6	licensee between the colocated manufacturing licenses LICENSE and THE retail licenses LICENSE without it being
7	considered distributed or delivered as provided in this code.
8	(f) For the purposes of this code, the following definitions apply:
9	(i) "Colocated license" means a manufacturing license and a retail license owned completely by a
10	person-LICENSEE and that are operated at one premises.
11	(ii) "Colocated premises" means a premises where a manufacturing license and a retail license are
12	both located."
13	
14	
15	COORDINATION SECTION. Section 10. Coordination instruction. If House Bill No. 242, Senate
16	Bill No. 75, and [this act] are passed and approved and all contain a section that amends 16-4-401, then the
17	sections amending 16-4-401 are void and 16-4-401 must be amended as follows:
18	"16-4-401. License as privilege criteria for decision on application restrictions colocated
19	licenses. (1) A license under this code is a privilege that the state may grant to an applicant and is not a right to
20	which any applicant is entitled.
21	(2) Except as provided in 16-4-311 and subsection (6)(5) of this section and subject to subsection
22	(8), in the case of a license that permits on-premises consumption, the department shall find in every case in
23	which it makes an order for the issuance of a new license, or the approval of the transfer of a license, or the
24	renewal of a license that:
25	(a) if the applicant is an individual:
26	(i) and the application is approved, the applicant will not possess an ownership interest in more than
27	three establishments licensed under this chapter for all-beverages sales. However, resort retail all-beverages



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1	licenses issued under 16-4-213 do not count toward this limit.	
2	(ii) the	applicant does not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-
3	106;	
4	(iii) the	applicant or any member of the applicant's immediate family is without financing from or any
5	affiliation to a m	nanufacturer, importer, bottler, or distributor of alcoholic beverages, except that an applicant's
6	spouse may po	ssess an ownership interest in one or more manufacturer licenses;
7	(iv) (i)	the applicant's past record and present status as a purveyor of alcoholic beverages and as a
8	business perso	n and citizen demonstrate that the applicant is likely to operate the establishment in compliance
9	with all applical	ole laws of the state and local governments ; however, nothing in this subsection (2)(a)(iv)
10	authorizes the	department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an income tax
11	protestor when	renewing the license;
12	(v) (ii)	the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if the applicant has been convicted of a
13	felony, the appl	icant's rights have been restored; and
14	(vi) (iii)	the applicant is not under 19 years of age;
15	(b)	if the applicant is a publicly traded corporation:
16	(i)	each owner of 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual
17	applicant listed	in subsection (2)(a). If no single owner owns more than 15% of the outstanding stock, the
18	applicant shall	designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements
19	for an individua	l applicant listed in subsection (2)(a)-;
20	(ii)	each individual who has control over the operation of the license meets the requirements for an
21	individual appli	cant listed in subsection (2)(a); and
22	(iii) ea	ch person who shares in the profits or liabilities of a license meets the requirements for an
23	individual applic	cant listed in subsection (2)(a). This subsection (2)(b)(iii) does not apply to a shareholder of a
24	corporation who owns less than 15% of the outstanding stock in that corporation except that the provisions of	
25	subsection (8) apply.	
26	(iv) (iii)	the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
27	(c)	if the applicant is a privately held corporation, all of the following must apply:



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1	(i) each owner of 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual
2	applicant listed in subsection (2)(a). If no single owner owns more than 15% of the outstanding stock, the
3	applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements
4	or an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a), and the owners of 51% of the outstanding stock must meet
5	he requirements of subsection (2)(a).
6	(ii) each individual who has control over the operation of the license meets the requirements for an
7	ndividual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a);
8	(iii) each person who shares in the profits or liabilities of a license meets the requirements for an
9	ndividual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a). This subsection (2)(c)(iii) does not apply to a shareholder of a
10	corporation who owns less than 15% of the outstanding stock in that corporation except that the provisions of
11	subsection (8)(7) apply.
12	(iv) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
13	(d) if the applicant is a general partnership, each partner must meet the requirements of
14	subsection (2)(a);
15	(e) if the applicant is a limited partnership or a limited liability partnership, each general partner and
16	all limited partners whose ownership interest in the partnership equals or exceeds 15% must meet the
17	equirements of subsection (2)(a). If no single limited partner's interest equals or exceeds 15%, then 51% of all
18	mited partners must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).
19	(f) if the applicant is a limited liability company—:
20	(i) all managing members and those members whose ownership interest in the company equals
21	or exceeds 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a). If no single member's interest equals or
22	exceeds 15%, then 51% of all members must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).
23	(ii) the limited liability company is authorized to do business in Montana;
24	(g) if the applicant is a trust, the trustee must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a);
25	(h) if the applicant is a nonprofit organization:
26	(i) the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet
27	he requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a); and



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1	(ii) the nonprofit organization is authorized to do business in Montana;
2	(i) if the applicant is a cooperative association:
3	(i) the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet
4	the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a); and
5	(ii) the cooperative association is authorized to do business in Montana.
6	(3) In the case of a license that permits only off-premises consumption and subject to subsection (8),
7	the department shall find in every case in which it makes an order for the issuance of a new license or for the
8	approval of the transfer of a license that:
9	(a) if the applicant is an individual:
10	(i) and the application is approved, the applicant will not possess an ownership interest in more than
11	three establishments licensed under this chapter for all-beverages sales;
12	(ii) the applicant does not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-
13	106;
14	(iii) the applicant or any member of the applicant's immediate family is without financing from or any
15	affiliation to a manufacturer, importer, bottler, or distributor of alcoholic beverages;
16	(iv) the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if the applicant has been convicted of a felony,
17	the applicant's rights have been restored;
18	(v) the applicant's past record and present status as a purveyor of alcoholic beverages and as a
19	business person and citizen demonstrate that the applicant is likely to operate the establishment in compliance
20	with all applicable laws of the state and local governments; however, nothing in this subsection (3)(a)(v)
21	authorizes the department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an income tax
22	protestor when renewing the license; and
23	(vi) the applicant is not under 19 years of age;
24	(b) if the applicant is a publicly traded corporation:
25	(i) each owner of 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual listed
26	in subsection (3)(a). If no single owner owns more than 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall
27	designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual



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1	applicant listed in subsection (3)(a).
2	(ii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
3	(c) if the applicant is a privately held corporation:
4	(i) each owner of 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual
5	applicant listed in subsection (3)(a). If no single owner owns more than 15% of the outstanding stock, the
6	applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements
7	for an individual applicant listed in subsection (3)(a), and the owners of 51% of the outstanding stock must meet
8	the requirements of subsection (3)(a).
9	(ii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
10	(d) if the applicant is a general partnership, each partner must meet the requirements of subsection
11	(3)(a);
12	(e) if the applicant is a limited partnership or a limited liability partnership, each general partner and all
13	limited partners whose ownership interest in the partnership equals or exceeds 15% must meet the
14	requirements of subsection (3)(a). If no single limited partner's interest equals or exceeds 15%, then 51% of all
15	limited partners must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a).
16	(f) if the applicant is a limited liability company, all managing members and those members whose
17	ownership interest in the company equals or exceeds 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a). If
18	no single member's interest equals or exceeds 15%, then 51% of all members must meet the requirements of
19	subsection (3)(a).
20	(4) Subject to 16-4-311, in the case of a license that permits the manufacture, importing, or
21	wholesaling of an alcoholic beverage, the department shall find in every case in which it makes an order for the
22	issuance of a new license or for the approval of the transfer of a license that:
23	(a) if the applicant is an individual:
24	(i) the applicant has no ownership interest in any establishment licensed under this chapter for retail
25	alcoholic beverages sales;
26	(ii) the applicant does not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-
27	106;



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1	(iii) the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if the applicant has been convicted of a felony,
2	the applicant's rights have been restored;
3	(iv) the applicant's past record and present status as a purveyor of alcoholic beverages and as a
4	business person and citizen demonstrate that the applicant is likely to operate the establishment in compliance
5	with all applicable laws of the state and local governments; however, nothing in this subsection (4)(a)(iv)
6	authorizes the department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an income tax
7	protestor when renewing the license;
8	(v) the applicant is not under 19 years of age; and
9	(vi) an applicant for a wholesale license is not a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or
10	controlled by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage;
11	(b) if the applicant is a publicly traded corporation:
12	(i) each owner of 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual listed
13	in subsection (4)(a). If no single owner owns more than 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall
14	designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual
15	applicant listed in subsection (4)(a).
16	(ii) an applicant for a wholesale license is not a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or
17	controlled by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage; and
18	(iii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
19	(c) if the applicant is a privately held corporation:
20	(i) each owner of 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual
21	applicant listed in subsection (4)(a). If no single owner owns more than 15% of the outstanding stock, the
22	applicant must designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements
23	for an individual applicant listed in subsection (4)(a) and the owners of 51% of the outstanding stock must meet
24	the requirements of subsection (4)(a).
25	(ii) an applicant for a wholesale license is not a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or
26	controlled by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage; and
27	(iii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;



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1	(d) if	the applicant is a general partnership, each partner must meet the requirements of subsection
2	(4)(a);	
3	(e) if	the applicant is a limited partnership or a limited liability partnership, each general partner and all
4	limited partners	whose ownership interest in the partnership equals or exceeds 15% must meet the
5	requirements o	f subsection (4)(a). If no single limited partner's interest equals or exceeds 15%, then 51% of all
6	limited partners	must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a).
7	(f) if t	he applicant is a limited liability company, all managing members and those members whose
8	ownership inter	rest in the company equals or exceeds 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a). If
9	no single mem	per's interest equals or exceeds 15%, then 51% of all members must meet the requirements of
10	subsection (4)(a).
11	<u>(3)</u>	The applicant and any individual of the applicant who must meet the requirements of (2)(a)
12	must be curren	t on all tax filings, taxes, interest, and penalties due to the state; however, nothing in this
13	subsection autl	norizes the department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an
14	income tax pro	testor when renewing the license.
15	(5)(4)	In the case of a corporate applicant, the requirements of subsections (2)(b), (3)(b), and (4)(b) or
16	(<u>2)(c)</u> apply sep	parately to each class of stock.
17	(6) (5)	The provisions of subsection (2) do not apply to an applicant for or holder of a license pursuant
18	to 16-4-302 <u>or</u>	an applicant for registration under 16-4-101 or 16-4-107.
19	(7) (6)	An applicant's source of funding must be from a suitable source. A lender or other source of
20	money or credi	t may be found unsuitable if the source:
21	(a)	is a person whose prior financial or other activities or criminal record:
22	(i)	poses a threat to the public interest of the state;
23	(ii)	poses a threat to the effective regulation and control of alcoholic beverages; or
24	(iii)	creates a danger of illegal practices, methods, or activities in the conduct of the licensed
25	business; or	
26	(b)	has been convicted of a felony offense within 5 years of the date of application or is on
27	probation or pa	role or under deferred prosecution for committing a felony offense.



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Drafter: Jameson Walker, 406-444-3722

HB0305.002.002

1	(8) (a) An individual applying for an all-beverages license or having any ownership interest in an
2	entity applying for an all-beverages license may not, if the application were to be approved, own an interest in
3	more than half the total number of allowable all-beverages licenses in any quota area described in 16-4-201.
4	(b) If two or more individuals through business or family relationship share in the profits or liabilities of
5	all-beverages licenses, the aggregate number of licenses in which they share profits or liabilities may not
6	exceed half the total number of allowable all-beverages licenses in the specific quota area in which the all-
7	beverages licenses will be heldunless the person's rights have been restored.
8	(9)(7) (a) Except as specifically provided in this code relating to financial interests in licenses, nothing
9	in this section applies or otherwise prohibits an applicant or licensee from obtaining personal financing from a
10	licensed financial institution, taking advantage of consumer credit, or using a personal credit card to make
11	purchases on behalf of a licensed entity if the applicant or licensee is reimbursed by the licensed entity within
12	90 days. An applicant or individual may obtain multiple transactions up to an aggregate maximum of \$100,000
13	with each individual transaction not to exceed \$25,000 to be used on behalf of the licensed entity.
14	(b) A licensee's use of short-term financing of 90 days or less from institutional lenders and
15	noninstitutional lenders does not constitute an undisclosed ownership interest in the license.
16	(c) It is the intent of this subsection (9)(7) to facilitate the efficient administration of an entity
17	licensed under this code.
18	(8) (a) An individual applying for an all-beverages license or having any ownership interest in an
19	entity applying for an all-beverages license may not, if the application were to be approved, own an interest in
20	more than half the total number of allowable all-beverages licenses in any quota area described in 16-4-201.
21	(b) If two or more individuals through a business or family relationship share in the profits or
22	liabilities of all-beverages licenses, the aggregate number of licenses in which they share in the profits or
23	liabilities may not exceed half the total number of allowable all-beverages licenses in the specific quota area in
24	which the all-beverages licenses will be held.
25	(c) An applicant applying for an all-beverages license and any individual of the applicant who must
26	meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a) may not, if the application were to be approved, possess an
27	ownership interest in more than the limit established in 16-4-205 for establishments licensed under this chapter



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1	for all-beverages sales. However, resort retail all-beverages licenses issued under 16-4-213 do not count
2	toward this limit.
3	(d) An applicant and any individual of the applicant who must meet the requirements of subsection
4	(2)(a) may not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-106.
5	(e) Except as provided in subsection (9), an applicant for an on-premises consumption license or
6	any member of the applicant's immediate family must be without financing from and may not have any affiliation
7	to a manufacturer, importer, bottler, or distributor of alcoholic beverages, except that an applicant's spouse may
8	possess an ownership interest in one or more manufacturer licenses. This prohibition also applies to any
9	individual of the applicant who must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).
10	(f) An applicant for an off-premises consumption license or any member of the applicant's
11	immediate family must be without financing from and may not have any affiliation to a manufacturer, importer,
12	bottler, or distributor of alcoholic beverages. This prohibition also applies to any individual of the applicant who
13	must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).
14	(g) Except as provided in subsection (9), an applicant for a manufacturing, importing, or
15	wholesaling license and any individual of the applicant who must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a)
16	may not possess an ownership interest in any establishment licensed under this chapter for retail alcoholic
17	beverage sales.
18	(h) An applicant for a wholesale license and any individual of the applicant who must meet the
19	requirements of subsection (2)(a) may not be a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or controlled
20	by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage.
21	(9) (a) A person with an ownership interest in a licensed brewery or licensed winery may hold
22	complete ownership of up to a combined total of three retail licenses issued pursuant to 16-4-105 or 16-4-201.
23	The owner of a retail license issued pursuant to 16-4-105 or 16-4-201 may hold complete ownership of brewery
24	or winery licenses. The first of these licenses must be a colocated license.
25	(b) A person with an ownership interest in a licensed distillery may hold complete ownership of up
26	to three retail licenses issued pursuant to 16-4-201. The owner of a retail license issued pursuant to 16-4-201
27	may hold complete ownership of distillery licenses. The first of these licenses must be a colocated license.



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1	(c) A person with an ownership interest in a retail license issued pursuant to 16-4-105 may not
2	also have an ownership interest in a distillery license.
3	(d) To hold both a manufacturing license and a retail license pursuant to this subsection (9), a
4	<u>licensee:</u>
5	(i) must maintain both the manufacturing license and the retail license on the same premises for
6	the first of these licenses, known as a colocated premises;
7	(ii) must have 100% of the same ownership between the manufacturing license and the retail
8	license; and
9	(iii) must provide and serve through the retail license alcohol produced by other manufacturers that
10	are not affiliated or financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in the conduct or operation of the business
11	in which the license was issued pursuant to 16-4-105 and 16-4-201, or the licensed brewery, winery, or
12	<u>distillery.</u>
13	(e) Colocated licenses may transfer beer manufactured, liquor distilled, or wine produced by the
14	licensee between the colocated manufacturing license and the retail license without it being considered
15	distributed or delivered as provided in this code.
16	(f) For the purposes of this code, the following definitions apply:
17	(i) "Colocated license" means a manufacturing license and a retail license owned completely by a
18	licensee and that are operated at one premises.
19	(ii) "Colocated premises" means a premises where a manufacturing license and a retail license are
20	both located."
21	
22	NEW SECTION. Section 11. Saving clause. [This act] does not affect rights and duties that
23	matured, penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date of this act].
24	
25	NEW SECTION. Section 12. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.
26	- END -

