
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 265

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SYSTEMS.

SUMMARY

This bill allows alcoholic liquor permittees authorized to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption to use a self-pour automated machine to serve beer, cider with up to 6% alcohol by volume, and wine.

Under the bill, the automated machine, upon the permittee's activation of a payment card, may be operated to dispense beer, cider, and wine to a (1) permittee's employee who is authorized to serve alcohol or (2) person who shows a government-issued identification card that matches the name on the payment card and is verified to be age 21 or older by the permittee, or presumably his or her employee. The permittee or employee must record the verification that the person is at least age 21.

Under the bill, automated machines cannot dispense a serving of more than 32 ounces of beer or cider or 10 ounces of wine before the permittee or employee must reactivate the payment card.

The bill also requires the Department of Consumer Protection to amend its regulations by October 1, 2021, to (1) allow permittees and their employees to use automated machines to dispense beer, cider, and wine pursuant to the bill; (2) ensure that automated machines do not initially dispense more than one drink at a time; and (3) ensure that someone is only allowed subsequent automated servings after he or she substantially disposes of or consumes the previous serving.

Current regulations prohibit using an alcoholic liquor self-service system, where a customer serves himself or herself, except as allowed under a hotel guest bar permit (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 30-6-A28(c)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 1 (02/16/2021)