



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 13

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 265

Senate, March 4, 2021

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. MARONEY of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) A permittee authorized
2 pursuant to title 30 of the general statutes to sell alcoholic liquor for on-
3 premises consumption may use a self-pour automated system that,
4 upon activation of a payment card by the permittee, may be operated to
5 dispense beer, cider not exceeding six per cent alcohol by volume and
6 wine to the following: (1) An employee of the permittee who is
7 authorized by law to serve alcoholic beverages, or (2) a person whom
8 the permittee has verified to be twenty-one years of age or older who
9 displays a government-issued identification card that matches the name
10 on the payment card. Such verification that a person is twenty-one years
11 of age or older shall be recorded by the permittee or an employee of the
12 permittee.

13 (b) A self-pour automated system authorized by subsection (a) of this
14 section shall not dispense a serving of more than thirty-two ounces of

15 beer or cider not exceeding six per cent alcohol by volume or ten ounces
16 of wine before the payment card is reactivated by the permittee or an
17 employee of the permittee.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2021,
19 the Department of Consumer Protection shall, pursuant to section 30-6a
20 of the general statutes, amend the regulations of Connecticut state
21 agencies, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general
22 statutes, to: (1) Allow for the use of self-pour automated systems by
23 permittees and employees of permittees for the dispensing of beer, cider
24 not exceeding six per cent alcohol by volume and wine pursuant to
25 section 1 of this act, (2) ensure that such beer, cider and wine is not
26 initially dispensed from any such system in servings of more than thirty-
27 two ounces of beer or cider not exceeding six per cent alcohol by volume
28 or ten ounces of wine to any one person for his or her own consumption
29 at any one time, and (3) ensure that second and subsequent servings of
30 such beer, cider and wine from any such system is allowed only after
31 the first serving has been substantially disposed of or consumed by such
32 person.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

GL *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Revenue Services	Various - Potential Revenue Gain	Up to 75,000	Up to 75,000

Note: Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential revenue gain of up to \$75,000 annually by allowing alcoholic liquor permittees who are authorized to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption to use an automated machine to serve beer, certain cider, and wine.

There is a potential revenue gain in sales¹ and alcoholic beverages taxes to the extent that: (1) one or more permittees install automated machines² and (2) there is an increase in alcohol consumption rather than a shift from currently allowed transactions for alcohol.

For illustrative purposes, if there is a 0.1% increase in alcohol consumption due to the availability of automated machines, there would be a revenue increase of \$75,000 annually in sales and alcoholic beverages taxes.

Section 2 requires the Department of Consumer Protection to adopt

¹ Current law requires a diversion of a portion of the sales tax generated into (1) the Special Transportation Fund and (2) the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account beginning in FY 22. The general sales and use tax rate, from which the diversion occurs, remains at 6.35%.

² Such machines range between \$5,000 and \$25,000 depending on the size and type.

regulations regarding alcoholic beverage machines and results in no fiscal impact because the department has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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)