



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 300**

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 5425

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2025*

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING HERITAGE RAILWAYS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 30-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 For the purposes of this chapter and section 2 of this act, unless the  
4 context indicates a different meaning:

5 (1) "Airline" means any (A) United States airline carrier holding a  
6 certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Civil  
7 Aeronautics Board under Section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of  
8 1958, as amended from time to time, or (B) foreign flag carrier holding a  
9 permit under Section 402 of said act.

10 (2) "Alcohol" (A) means the product of distillation of any fermented  
11 liquid that is rectified at least once and regardless of such liquid's origin,  
12 and (B) includes synthetic ethyl alcohol which is considered nonpotable.

13 (3) "Alcoholic beverage" and "alcoholic liquor" include the four  
14 varieties of liquor defined in subdivisions (2), (5), [(21) and] (22) and (23)  
15 of this section (alcohol, beer, spirits and wine) and every liquid or solid,  
16 patented or unpatented, containing alcohol, beer, spirits or wine and at  
17 least one-half of one per cent alcohol by volume, and capable of being  
18 consumed by a human being as a beverage. Any liquid or solid  
19 containing more than one of the four varieties so defined belongs to the  
20 variety which has the highest percentage of alcohol according to the  
21 following order: Alcohol, spirits, wine and beer, except as provided in  
22 subdivision [(22)] (23) of this section.

23 (4) "Backer" means, except in cases where the permittee is the  
24 proprietor, the proprietor of any business or club, incorporated or  
25 unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic  
26 liquor and in which business a permittee is associated, whether as an  
27 agent, employee or part owner.

28 (5) "Beer" means any beverage obtained by the alcoholic fermentation  
29 of a decoction or infusion of barley, hops and malt in drinking water.

30 (6) "Boat" means any vessel that is (A) operating on any waterway of  
31 this state, and (B) engaged in transporting passengers for hire to or from  
32 any port of this state.

33 (7) "Business entity" means any incorporated or unincorporated  
34 association, corporation, firm, joint stock company, limited liability  
35 company, limited liability partnership, partnership, trust or other legal  
36 entity.

37 (8) "Case price" means the price of a container made of cardboard,  
38 wood or any other material and containing units of the same class and  
39 size of alcoholic liquor. A case of alcoholic liquor, other than beer,  
40 cocktails, cordials, prepared mixed drinks and wines, shall be in the  
41 quantity and number, or fewer, with the permission of the  
42 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, of bottles or units as follows:  
43 (A) Six one thousand seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (B) six one  
44 thousand eight hundred milliliter bottles, (C) twelve seven hundred

45 milliliter bottles, (D) twelve seven hundred twenty milliliter bottles, (E)  
46 twelve seven hundred fifty milliliter bottles, (F) twelve nine hundred  
47 milliliter bottles, (G) twelve one liter bottles, (H) twenty-four three  
48 hundred seventy-five milliliter bottles, (I) forty-eight two hundred  
49 milliliter bottles, (J) sixty one hundred milliliter bottles, or (K) one  
50 hundred twenty fifty milliliter bottles, except a case of fifty milliliter  
51 bottles may be in a quantity and number as originally configured,  
52 packaged and sold by the manufacturer or out-of-state shipper prior to  
53 shipment if the number of such bottles in such case is not greater than  
54 two hundred. The commissioner shall not authorize fewer quantities or  
55 numbers of bottles or units as specified in this subdivision for any one  
56 person or entity more than eight times in any calendar year. For the  
57 purposes of this subdivision, "class" has the same meaning as provided  
58 in 27 CFR 4.21 for wine, 27 CFR 5.22 for spirits and 27 CFR 7.24 for beer.

59 (9) "Club" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-22aa.

60 (10) "Coliseum" has the same meaning as provided in section 30-33a.

61 (11) "Commission" means the Liquor Control Commission  
62 established under this chapter.

63 (12) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection.

64 (13) "Dining room" means any room or rooms (A) located in premises  
65 operating under (i) a hotel permit issued under section 30-21, (ii) a  
66 restaurant permit issued under subsection (a) of section 30-22, (iii) a  
67 restaurant permit for wine and beer issued under subsection (b) of  
68 section 30-22, (iv) a cafe permit issued under section 30-22a, as amended  
69 by this act, or (v) a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under  
70 section 30-22g, and (B) where meals are customarily served to any  
71 member of the public who has means of payment and a proper  
72 demeanor.

73 (14) "Heritage railway" means any railway service that (A) is operated  
74 primarily for the purposes of historical preservation and tourism, (B)  
75 has either retained or assumed (i) an antiquated appearance or

76 character, and (ii) antiquated railway operating practices, and (C)  
77 utilizes antiquated railway equipment, including, but not limited to,  
78 antiquated locomotives and rolling stock.

79 [(14)] (15) "Mead" means fermented honey (A) with or without  
80 additions or adjunct ingredients, and (B) regardless of (i) alcohol  
81 content, (ii) process, and (iii) whether such honey is carbonated,  
82 sparkling or still.

83 [(15)] (16) "Minor" means any person who is younger than twenty-  
84 one years of age.

85 [(16)] (17) "Noncommercial entity" means an academic institution,  
86 charitable organization, government organization, nonprofit  
87 organization or similar entity that is not primarily dedicated to  
88 obtaining a commercial advantage or monetary compensation.

89 [(17)] (18) "Nonprofit club" has the same meaning as provided in  
90 section 30-22aa.

91 [(18)] (19) (A) "Person" means an individual, including, but not  
92 limited to, a partner.

93 (B) "Person" does not include any business entity.

94 [(19)] (20) (A) "Proprietor" includes all owners of a business or club,  
95 incorporated or unincorporated, that is engaged in manufacturing or  
96 selling alcoholic liquor, whether such owners are persons, fiduciaries,  
97 business entities, stockholders of corporations or otherwise.

98 (B) "Proprietor" does not include any person who, or business entity  
99 that, is merely a creditor, whether as a bond holder, franchisor, landlord  
100 or note holder, of a business or club, incorporated or unincorporated,  
101 that is engaged in manufacturing or selling alcoholic liquor.

102 [(20)] (21) "Restaurant" has the same meaning as provided in section  
103 30-22.

104 [(21)] (22) "Spirits" means any beverage that contains alcohol

105 obtained by distillation mixed with drinkable water and other  
106 substances in solution, including brandy, rum, whiskey and gin.

107 [(22)] (23) "Wine" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by  
108 fermenting the natural sugar content of fruits, such as apples, grapes or  
109 other agricultural products, containing such sugar, including fortified  
110 wines such as port, sherry and champagne.

111 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) A short-term heritage railway  
112 cafe permit shall allow the sale and public consumption of alcoholic  
113 liquor in any club, parlor, dining, buffet or lounge car of a passenger  
114 train operated by a heritage railway in this state in the manner set forth  
115 for a cafe permit issued under subsection (h) of section 30-22a of the  
116 general statutes, as amended by this act. A short-term heritage railway  
117 cafe permit shall be subject to all of the privileges, obligations and  
118 penalties provided for in chapter 545 of the general statutes, except such  
119 permit shall be issued to a corporation instead of a person, shall be valid  
120 for a period of six months and, if such permit is revoked, another  
121 application may be made by the corporation for the issuance of another  
122 such permit at any time after the expiration of six months following such  
123 revocation. The fee for a short-term heritage railway cafe permit shall be  
124 one hundred dollars. During the calendar year in which a short-term  
125 heritage railway cafe permit is issued to a permittee pursuant to this  
126 section, the permittee may apply to the Department of Consumer  
127 Protection, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of  
128 Consumer Protection, to convert the short-term heritage railway cafe  
129 permit into an annual cafe permit issued under subsection (h) of section  
130 30-22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The effective date  
131 of such annual cafe permit shall be the effective date of the short-term  
132 heritage railway cafe permit issued under this section. The fee for such  
133 cafe permit shall be the fee established in subsection (a) of section 30-  
134 22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for a heritage railway  
135 less the fee the applicant paid for the short-term heritage railway cafe  
136 permit issued under this section.

137 Sec. 3. Section 30-12 of the general statutes is repealed and the

138 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

139 When any town has so voted upon the question of liquor permits, any  
140 liquor permit granted in such town which is not in accordance with such  
141 vote shall be void except manufacturer permits, [and] cafe permits  
142 issued under subsections (g) and (h) of section 30-22a, as amended by  
143 this act, and short-term heritage railway cafe permits issued under  
144 section 2 of this act.

145 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 30-14 of the general statutes  
146 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
147 *1, 2025*):

148 (a) Each permit shall be a purely personal privilege that is revocable  
149 in the discretion of the Department of Consumer Protection, and subject  
150 to appeal, as provided in section 30-55. Except as otherwise provided in  
151 the general statutes, including, but not limited to, sections 30-35, 30-37g  
152 and 30-37u and section 2 of this act, each permit shall expire annually.  
153 No permit shall constitute property, be subject to attachment and  
154 execution or be alienable, except a permit shall descend to the estate of  
155 a deceased permittee by the laws of testate or intestate succession. An  
156 airline permit issued under section 30-28a, [or] a cafe permit issued  
157 under subsection (h) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act, or a short-  
158 term heritage railway cafe permit issued under section 2 of this act shall  
159 be granted to the airline corporation, [or] railway corporation or  
160 heritage railway corporation and not to any person, and the corporation  
161 shall be the permittee.

162 (b) Any permit in this part, except a permit issued under sections 30-  
163 35, 30-37g and 30-37u and section 2 of this act, may be issued for a  
164 continuous period of not more than six consecutive calendar months, at  
165 two-thirds of regular fees, but rebate of fees shall not be permitted for  
166 any unexpired portion of the term of a permit revoked by reason of a  
167 violation of any provision of this chapter.

168 Sec. 5. Subsections (a) to (h), inclusive, of section 30-22a of the general  
169 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof

170 (Effective July 1, 2025):

171 (a) A cafe permit shall allow the retail sale of alcoholic liquor to be  
172 consumed on the premises of a cafe. The holder of a cafe permit shall  
173 keep food available for sale to its customers for consumption on the  
174 premises during the majority of the hours such premises are open. The  
175 availability of food from outside vendors located on or near the  
176 premises, who may directly deliver such food or indirectly deliver such  
177 food through a third party, shall be deemed to constitute compliance  
178 with such requirement. The licensed premises shall at all times comply  
179 with all the regulations of the local department of health. Nothing herein  
180 shall be construed to require that any food be sold or purchased with  
181 any alcoholic liquor, nor shall any rule, regulation or standard be  
182 promulgated or enforced to require that sales of food be substantial or  
183 that the business's receipts from sales of alcoholic liquor equal any set  
184 percentage of total receipts from all sales made on the licensed premises.  
185 A cafe permit shall allow, with the prior approval of the Department of  
186 Consumer Protection, alcoholic liquor to be served at tables in outside  
187 areas that are screened or not screened from public view where  
188 permitted by fire, zoning and health regulations. If not required by fire,  
189 zoning or health regulations, a fence or wall enclosing such outside  
190 areas shall not be required by the Department of Consumer Protection.  
191 No fence or wall used to enclose such outside areas shall be less than  
192 thirty inches high. Such permit shall also authorize the sale at retail from  
193 the premises of sealed containers, supplied by the permittee, of draught  
194 beer for consumption off the premises. Such sales shall be conducted  
195 only during the hours a package store is permitted to sell alcoholic  
196 liquor under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91, as  
197 amended by this act. Not more than four liters of such beer shall be sold  
198 to any person on any day on which the sale of alcoholic liquor is  
199 authorized under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91, as  
200 amended by this act. The annual fee for a cafe permit shall be two  
201 thousand dollars, except the annual fee for a cafe permit for (1) a prior  
202 holder of a tavern permit issued under section 30-26 shall be eight  
203 hundred dollars for the first year, twelve hundred dollars for the second  
204 year, one thousand six hundred dollars for the third year and two

205 thousand dollars for each year thereafter, and (2) a heritage railway shall  
206 be two hundred dollars.

207 (b) (1) A cafe patron may remove one unsealed bottle of wine for off-  
208 premises consumption, provided the patron has purchased a full course  
209 meal and consumed a portion of the wine with such meal on the cafe  
210 premises. For purposes of this section, "full course meal" means a  
211 diversified selection of food which (A) ordinarily cannot be consumed  
212 without the use of tableware, and (B) cannot be conveniently consumed  
213 while standing or walking.

214 (2) A partially consumed bottle of wine that is to be removed from  
215 the premises under this subsection shall be securely sealed and placed  
216 in a bag by the permittee or the permittee's agent or employee prior to  
217 removal from the premises.

218 (c) As used in this section, "cafe" means space in a suitable and  
219 permanent building, vessel or structure, kept, used, maintained,  
220 advertised and held out to the public to be a place where alcoholic liquor  
221 and food is served for sale at retail for consumption on the premises but  
222 which does not necessarily serve hot meals; [it] such premises shall have  
223 no sleeping accommodations for the public and need not necessarily  
224 have a kitchen or dining room but shall have employed therein at all  
225 times an adequate number of employees.

226 (d) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes any  
227 location in a passenger terminal complex of any airport, as defined in  
228 section 15-34, or any location adjacent to and attached by common  
229 partition to such complex, which is open to the public or to airline club  
230 members or their guests, with or without the sale of food, for  
231 consumption on the premises.

232 (e) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes all of  
233 the land and buildings in which the principal business conducted is  
234 racing or jai alai exhibitions, with pari-mutuel betting licensed by the  
235 Department of Consumer Protection.



236 (f) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes any  
237 commercial bowling establishment containing ten or more lanes, or any  
238 commercial racquetball or tennis facility containing five or more courts,  
239 with or without food, for consumption on the premises.

240 (g) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes the  
241 premises and grounds of a golf country club, defined as: (1) An  
242 association of persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that  
243 has been in existence as a bona fide organization for at least one year  
244 prior to applying for a permit issued as provided by this chapter, or that  
245 at the time of applying for the permit is in existence as a bona fide  
246 organization and has not less than twenty members who have paid  
247 annual membership fees or dues and have signed affidavits of their  
248 intention to remain members of the association for not less than one year  
249 after that time, not including associations organized for any commercial  
250 or business purpose the object of which is money profit, which  
251 maintains a golf course of not less than eighteen holes and a course  
252 length of at least fifty-five hundred yards and a club house with facilities  
253 that include locker rooms, a dining room and a lounge; provided the  
254 club shall file with the department, upon request, within ten days of  
255 February first in each year, a list of the names and residences of its  
256 members, and shall similarly file, within ten days of the election of any  
257 additional member, his name and address, and provided its aggregate  
258 annual membership fees or dues and other income, exclusive of any  
259 proceeds of the sale of alcoholic liquor, shall be sufficient to defray the  
260 annual rental of its leased or rented premises, or, if the premises are  
261 owned by the club, shall be sufficient to meet the taxes, insurance and  
262 repairs and the interest on any mortgage thereof; and provided, further,  
263 its affairs and management shall be conducted by a board of directors,  
264 executive committee or similar body chosen by the members at their  
265 annual meeting, and no member or any officer, agent or employee of the  
266 club shall be paid or, directly or indirectly, shall receive in the form of  
267 salary or other compensation any profits from the disposition or sale of  
268 alcoholic liquor to the club or to the members of the club or its guests  
269 introduced by members, beyond the amount of such salary as may be  
270 fixed and voted at annual meetings by the members or by its directors

271 or other governing body and as reported by the club to the department,  
272 within three months after the annual meeting, and as is, in the judgment  
273 of the department, reasonable and proper compensation for the services  
274 of such member, officer, agent or employee; or (2) an association of  
275 persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which has been in  
276 existence as a bona fide organization for at least one year prior to  
277 applying for a permit issued as provided by this chapter, or which at the  
278 time of applying for the permit is in existence as a bona fide organization  
279 and has not less than twenty members who have paid annual  
280 membership fees or dues and is directly or indirectly wholly owned by  
281 a corporation which is and continues to be nonprofit and to which the  
282 Internal Revenue Service has issued a ruling classifying it as an exempt  
283 organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
284 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United  
285 States, as amended from time to time, which maintains a golf course of  
286 not less than eighteen holes and a course length of at least fifty-five  
287 hundred yards and a club house with facilities which include locker  
288 rooms, a dining room and a lounge; provided the club shall file with the  
289 department, upon request, within ten days of February first in each year,  
290 a list of the names and residences of its members, and shall similarly file,  
291 within ten days of the admission of any additional member, his name  
292 and address. The nonprofit corporation shall demonstrate to the  
293 commission an ability to pay any operating deficit of the golf country  
294 club, exclusive of any proceeds of the sale of alcoholic liquor; and  
295 provided, further, the affairs and the management of the nonprofit  
296 corporation are conducted by a board of directors, executive committee  
297 or similar body at least forty per cent of the members of which are  
298 chosen by the members of the nonprofit corporation at their annual  
299 meeting and the balance of the members of the board of directors are  
300 professionals chosen for their knowledge of the business of the  
301 nonprofit corporation, and all moneys earned by the golf country club  
302 shall be used to defray its expenses of operation or for charitable  
303 purposes, and any balance shall be directly or indirectly remitted to the  
304 nonprofit corporation.

305 (h) For purposes of compliance with this section, "cafe" includes any

306 corporation that operates a railway or heritage railway in this state or  
307 that operates club, parlor, dining, buffet or lounge cars upon the lines of  
308 any such railway or heritage railway in this state. [It] The permit shall  
309 allow the sale and public consumption of alcoholic liquor in any club,  
310 parlor, dining, buffet or lounge car of a passenger train operated in this  
311 state. [It] The permit shall be subject to all the privileges, obligations and  
312 penalties provided for in this chapter except [that it] such permit shall  
313 be issued to a corporation instead of to a person and, if [it] such permit  
314 is revoked, another application may be made by the corporation for the  
315 issuance of another [railroad] permit at any time after the expiration of  
316 one year after such revocation.

317 Sec. 6. Section 30-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
318 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

319 Each permit granted under the provisions of sections 30-16, 30-17, 30-  
320 20, 30-21, 30-21b, 30-22, 30-22a, as amended by this act, 30-22g, 30-22aa,  
321 30-28a, 30-33a [,] and 30-36 [,] and section 2 of this act shall also, under  
322 the regulations of the Department of Consumer Protection, allow the  
323 storage, on the premises and at one other secure location registered with  
324 and approved by the department, of sufficient quantities of alcoholic  
325 liquor respectively allowed to be sold under such permits as may be  
326 necessary for the business conducted by the respective permittees or  
327 their backers; but no such permit shall be granted under the provisions  
328 of section 30-16 or 30-17 unless such storage facilities are provided and  
329 the place of storage receives the approval of the department as to  
330 suitability, and thereafter no place of storage shall be changed nor any  
331 new place of storage utilized without the approval of the department.

332 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 30-39 of the general statutes is  
333 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
334 *2025*):

335 (b) (1) Any person desiring a liquor permit or a renewal of such a  
336 permit shall make an affirmed application therefor to the Department of  
337 Consumer Protection, upon forms to be furnished by the department,  
338 showing the name and address of the applicant and of the applicant's

339 backer, if any, the location of the club or place of business which is to be  
340 operated under such permit and a financial statement setting forth all  
341 elements and details of any business transactions connected with the  
342 application. Such application shall include a detailed description of the  
343 type of live entertainment that is to be provided. A club or place of  
344 business shall be exempt from providing such detailed description if the  
345 club or place of business (A) was issued a liquor permit prior to October  
346 1, 1993, and (B) has not altered the type of entertainment provided. The  
347 application shall also indicate any crimes of which the applicant or the  
348 applicant's backer may have been convicted. Applicants shall submit  
349 documents, only upon initial application, sufficient to establish that  
350 state and local building, fire and zoning requirements and local  
351 ordinances concerning hours and days of sale will be met, except that  
352 local building and zoning requirements and local ordinances  
353 concerning hours and days of sale shall not apply to a cafe permit issued  
354 under subsection (d) or (h) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act, or  
355 a short-term heritage railway cafe permit issued under section 2 of this  
356 act. The State Fire Marshal or the marshal's certified designee shall be  
357 responsible for approving compliance with the State Fire Code at  
358 Bradley International Airport. Any person desiring a permit provided  
359 for in section 30-33b shall file a copy of such person's license with such  
360 application if such license was issued by the Department of Consumer  
361 Protection. The department may, at its discretion, conduct an  
362 investigation to determine (i) whether a permit shall be issued to an  
363 applicant or the applicant's backer, or (ii) the suitability of the proposed  
364 permit premises. Completion of an inspection pursuant to subsection (f)  
365 of section 29-305 shall not be deemed to constitute a precondition to  
366 renewal of a permit that is subject to subsection (f) of section 29-305.

367 (2) The applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable  
368 application fee, which fee shall be in addition to the fees prescribed in  
369 this chapter for the permit sought. An application fee shall not be  
370 charged for an application to renew a permit. The application fee shall  
371 be in the amount of ten dollars for the filing of each application for a  
372 permit by a nonprofit golf tournament permit under section 30-37g or a  
373 temporary liquor permit for a noncommercial entity under section 30-

374 35; and in the amount of one hundred dollars for the filing of an initial  
375 application for all other permits. Any permit issued shall be valid only  
376 for the purposes and activities described in the application.

377 (3) The applicant, immediately after filing an application, shall give  
378 notice thereof, with the name and residence of the permittee, the type of  
379 permit applied for and the location of the place of business for which  
380 such permit is to be issued and the type of live entertainment to be  
381 provided, all in a form prescribed by the department, by publishing the  
382 same in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which the place  
383 of business to be operated under such permit is to be located, at least  
384 once a week for two successive weeks, the first publication to be not  
385 more than seven days after the filing date of the application and the last  
386 publication not more than fourteen days after the filing date of the  
387 application. The applicant shall affix, and maintain in a legible condition  
388 upon the outer door of the building wherein such place of business is to  
389 be located and clearly visible from the public highway, the placard  
390 provided by the department, not later than the day following the receipt  
391 of the placard by the applicant. If such outer door of such premises is so  
392 far from the public highway that such placard is not clearly visible as  
393 provided, the department shall direct a suitable method to notify the  
394 public of such application. When an application is filed for any type of  
395 permit for a building that has not been constructed, such applicant shall  
396 erect and maintain in a legible condition a sign not less than six feet by  
397 four feet upon the site where such place of business is to be located,  
398 instead of such placard upon the outer door of the building. The sign  
399 shall set forth the type of permit applied for and the name of the  
400 proposed permittee, shall be clearly visible from the public highway and  
401 shall be so erected not later than the day following the receipt of the  
402 placard. Such applicant shall make a return to the department, under  
403 oath, of compliance with the foregoing requirements, in such form as  
404 the department may determine, but the department may require any  
405 additional proof of such compliance. Upon receipt of evidence of such  
406 compliance, the department may hold a hearing as to the suitability of  
407 the proposed location. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply  
408 to applications for (A) airline permits issued under section 30-28a, (B)

409 temporary liquor permits for noncommercial entities issued under  
410 section 30-35, (C) concession permits issued under section 30-33, (D)  
411 military permits issued under section 30-34, (E) cafe permits issued  
412 under subsection (h) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act, (F) short-  
413 term heritage railway cafe permits issued under section 2 of this act, (G)  
414 warehouse permits issued under section 30-32, [(G)] (H) broker's  
415 permits issued under section 30-30, [(H)] (I) out-of-state shipper's  
416 permits for alcoholic liquor issued under section 30-18, [(I)] (J) out-of-  
417 state shipper's permits for beer issued under section 30-19, [(J)] (K)  
418 coliseum permits issued under section 30-33a, [(K)] (L) nonprofit golf  
419 tournament permits issued under section 30-37g, [(L)] (M) Connecticut  
420 craft cafe permits issued under section 30-22d to permittees who held a  
421 manufacturer permit for a brew pub or a manufacturer permit for beer  
422 issued under subsection (b) of section 30-16 and a brew pub before July  
423 1, 2020, [(M)] (N) off-site farm winery sales and wine, cider and mead  
424 tasting permits issued under section 30-16a, [(N)] (O) out-of-state  
425 retailer shipper's permits for wine issued under section 30-18a, [(O)] (P)  
426 out-of-state winery shipper's permits for wine issued under section 30-  
427 18a, [(P)] (Q) in-state transporter's permits for alcoholic liquor issued  
428 under section 30-19f, including, but not limited to, boats operating  
429 under such permits, [(Q)] (R) seasonal outdoor open-air permits issued  
430 under section 30-22e, [(R)] (S) festival permits issued under section 30-  
431 37t, [(S)] (T) temporary auction permits issued under section 30-37u,  
432 [(T)] (U) outdoor open-air permits issued under section 30-22f, and [(U)]  
433 (V) renewals of any permit described in subparagraphs (A) to [(T)] (U),  
434 inclusive, of this subdivision, if applicable. The provisions of this  
435 subdivision regarding publication and placard display shall also be  
436 required of any applicant who seeks to amend the type of entertainment  
437 either upon filing of a renewal application or upon requesting  
438 permission of the department in a form that requires the approval of the  
439 municipal zoning official.

440 (4) In any case in which a permit has been issued to a partnership, if  
441 one or more of the partners dies or retires, the remaining partner or  
442 partners need not file a new application for the unexpired portion of the  
443 current permit, and no additional fee for such unexpired portion shall

444 be required. Notice of any such change shall be given to the department  
445 and the permit shall be endorsed to show correct ownership. When any  
446 partnership changes by reason of the addition of one or more persons, a  
447 new application with new fees shall be required.

448 Sec. 8. Section 30-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
449 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

450 The Department of Consumer Protection shall refuse permits for the  
451 sale of alcoholic liquor to the following persons: (1) Any state marshal,  
452 judicial marshal, judge of any court, prosecuting officer or member of  
453 any police force; (2) any minor; (3) any constable who (A) performs  
454 criminal law enforcement duties and is considered a peace officer by  
455 town ordinance pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of section  
456 54-1f, or (B) is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e,  
457 inclusive, and performs criminal law enforcement duties pursuant to  
458 the provisions of subsection (c) of section 54-1f; and (4) any special  
459 constable appointed pursuant to section 7-92. This section shall not  
460 apply to any out-of-state shipper's permit issued under section 30-18,  
461 30-18a or 30-19, any cafe permit issued under section 30-22a, as  
462 amended by this act, any cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued  
463 under section 30-22g, any boat operating under any in-state  
464 transporter's permit issued under section 30-19f, [or] any airline permit  
465 issued under section 30-28a or any short-term heritage railway cafe  
466 permit issued under section 2 of this act. As used in this section, "minor"  
467 means a minor, as defined in section 1-1d or as defined in section 30-1, as  
468 amended by this act, whichever age is older.

469 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 30-48 of the general statutes is  
470 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
471 *2025*):

472 (a) No backer or permittee of one permit class shall be a backer or  
473 permittee of any other permit class except in the case of airline permits  
474 issued under section 30-28a, boats operating under in-state transporter's  
475 permits issued under section 30-19f, [and] cafe permits issued under  
476 subsections (d) and (h) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act, and

477 short-term heritage railway cafe permits issued under section 2 of this  
478 act, except that: (1) A backer of a hotel permit issued under section 30-  
479 21 or a restaurant permit issued under section 30-22 may be a backer of  
480 both such classes; (2) a holder or backer of a restaurant permit issued  
481 under section 30-22, a cafe permit issued under subsection (a) of section  
482 30-22a, as amended by this act, or a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider  
483 issued under section 30-22g may be a holder or backer of any other or  
484 all of such classes; (3) a holder or backer of a restaurant permit issued  
485 under section 30-22 may be a holder or backer of a cafe permit issued  
486 under subsection (f) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act; (4) a  
487 backer of a restaurant permit issued under section 30-22 may be a backer  
488 of a coliseum permit issued under section 30-33a when such restaurant  
489 is within a coliseum; (5) a backer of a hotel permit issued under section  
490 30-21 may be a backer of a coliseum permit issued under section 30-33a;  
491 (6) a backer of a grocery store beer permit issued under subsection (c) of  
492 section 30-20 may be (A) a backer of a package store permit issued under  
493 subsection (b) of section 30-20 if such was the case on or before May 1,  
494 1996, and (B) a backer of a restaurant permit issued under section 30-22,  
495 provided the restaurant permit premises do not abut or share the same  
496 space as the grocery store beer permit premises; (7) a backer of a cafe  
497 permit issued under subsection (j) of section 30-22a, may be a backer of  
498 a nonprofit theater permit issued under section 30-35a; (8) a backer of a  
499 nonprofit theater permit issued under section 30-35a may be a holder or  
500 backer of a hotel permit issued under section 30-21 or a coliseum permit  
501 issued under section 30-33a; (9) a backer of a concession permit issued  
502 under section 30-33 may be a backer of a coliseum permit issued under  
503 section 30-33a; (10) a holder of an out-of-state winery shipper's permit  
504 for wine issued under section 30-18a may be a holder of an in-state  
505 transporter's permit issued under section 30-19f; (11) a holder of an out-  
506 of-state shipper's permit for alcoholic liquor issued under section 30-18  
507 or an out-of-state winery shipper's permit for wine issued under section  
508 30-18a may be a holder of an in-state transporter's permit issued under  
509 section 30-19f; (12) a holder of a manufacturer permit for a farm winery  
510 issued under subsection (c) of section 30-16 or a manufacturer permit  
511 for wine, cider and mead issued under subsection (d) of section 30-16



512 may be a holder of an in-state transporter's permit issued under section  
513 30-19f, an off-site farm winery sales and tasting permit issued under  
514 section 30-16a or any combination of such permits; (13) the holder of a  
515 manufacturer permit for spirits, beer, a farm winery or wine, cider and  
516 mead, issued under subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d), respectively, of section  
517 30-16 may be a holder of a Connecticut craft cafe permit issued under  
518 section 30-22d, a restaurant permit or a restaurant permit for wine and  
519 beer issued under section 30-22 or a farmers' market sales permit issued  
520 under section 30-37o; (14) the holder of a restaurant permit issued under  
521 section 30-22, a cafe permit issued under section 30-22a, as amended by  
522 this act, a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-  
523 22g or an in-state transporter's permit issued under section 30-19f may  
524 be the holder of a seasonal outdoor open-air permit issued under section  
525 30-22e or an outdoor open-air permit issued under section 30-22f; (15)  
526 the holder of a festival permit issued under section 30-37t may be the  
527 holder or backer of one or more of such other classes; (16) the holder of  
528 an out-of-state shipper's permit for alcoholic liquor other than beer  
529 issued under section 30-18, an out-of-state winery shipper's permit for  
530 wine issued under section 30-18a or an out-of-state shipper's permit for  
531 beer issued under section 30-19 may be the holder of an out-of-state  
532 retailer shipper's permit for wine issued under section 30-18a; and (17)  
533 the holder of a restaurant permit issued under section 30-22 may be a  
534 holder of a Connecticut craft cafe permit issued under section 30-22d,  
535 provided the permit premises are located at two different addresses.  
536 Any person may be a permittee of more than one permit. No holder of  
537 a manufacturer permit for beer issued under subsection (b) of section  
538 30-16 and no spouse or child of such holder may be a holder or backer  
539 of more than three restaurant permits issued under section 30-22, cafe  
540 permits issued under section 30-22a, as amended by this act, or cafe  
541 permits for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g.

542 Sec. 10. Section 30-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
543 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

544 Each permit granted or renewed by the Department of Consumer  
545 Protection shall be of no effect until a duplicate thereof has been filed by

546 the permittee with the town clerk of the town within which the club or  
547 place of business described in such permit is situated; provided the  
548 place of filing for (1) a cafe permit issued under subsection (h) of section  
549 30-22a, as amended by this act, a short-term heritage railway cafe permit  
550 issued under section 2 of this act or a boat operating under an in-state  
551 transporter's permit issued under section 30-19f, shall be the office of the  
552 town clerk of the town of New Haven, and (2) an airline permit issued  
553 under section 30-28a shall be the office of the town clerk of the town of  
554 Hartford. The fee for such filing shall be twenty dollars.

555 Sec. 11. Section 30-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
556 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

557 Every permittee, other than a corporation holding a cafe permit  
558 issued under subsection (h) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act, a  
559 short-term heritage railway cafe permit issued under section 2 of this act  
560 or an airline permit issued under section 30-28a, shall cause such  
561 permittee's permit or a duplicate thereof to be framed and hung in plain  
562 view in a conspicuous place in any room where the sales so permitted  
563 are to be carried on.

564 Sec. 12. Subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of section 30-91 of the general  
565 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
566 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

567 (a) The sale, dispensing, consumption or presence in glasses or other  
568 receptacles suitable to allow for the consumption of alcoholic liquor by  
569 an individual in places operating under hotel permits issued under  
570 section 30-21, restaurant permits issued under section 30-22, cafe  
571 permits issued under section 30-22a, as amended by this act, cafe  
572 permits for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g, short-term  
573 heritage railway cafe permits issued under section 2 of this act,  
574 Connecticut craft cafe permits issued under section 30-22d, club permits  
575 issued under section 30-22aa, restaurant permits for catering  
576 establishments issued under section 30-22b, coliseum permits issued  
577 under section 30-33a, temporary liquor permits for noncommercial  
578 entities issued under section 30-35, nonprofit public museum permits

579 issued under section 30-37a, manufacturer permits for beer, a farm  
580 winery or wine, cider and mead issued under subsection (b), (c) or (d),  
581 respectively, of section 30-16, casino permits issued under section 30-  
582 37k and caterer liquor permits issued under section 30-37j shall be  
583 unlawful on: (1) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
584 between the hours of one o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock a.m.; (2) Saturday  
585 between the hours of two o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock a.m.; (3) Sunday  
586 between the hours of two o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m.; (4)  
587 Christmas, except (A) for alcoholic liquor that is served where food is  
588 also available during the hours otherwise permitted by this section for  
589 the day on which Christmas falls, and (B) by casino permittees at  
590 casinos, as defined in section 30-37k; and (5) January first between the  
591 hours of three o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock a.m., except that on any  
592 Sunday that is January first the prohibitions of this section shall be  
593 between the hours of three o'clock a.m. and ten o'clock a.m.

594 (b) Any town may, by vote of a town meeting or by ordinance, reduce  
595 the number of hours during which sales under subsection (a) of this  
596 section, except sales under a cafe permit issued under subsection (d) of  
597 section 30-22a, as amended by this act, shall be permissible. In all cases  
598 when a town, either by vote of a town meeting or by ordinance, has  
599 acted on the sale of alcoholic liquor or the reduction of the number of  
600 hours when such sale is permissible, such action shall become effective  
601 on the first day of the month succeeding such action and no further  
602 action shall be taken until at least one year has elapsed since the  
603 previous action was taken.

604 (c) Notwithstanding any provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this  
605 section, such sale, dispensing, consumption or presence in glasses in  
606 places operating under a cafe permit issued under subsection (f) of  
607 section 30-22a, as amended by this act, shall be unlawful before eleven  
608 o'clock a.m. on any day, except in that portion of the permit premises  
609 which is located in a separate room or rooms entry to which, from the  
610 bowling lane area of the establishment, is by means of a door or doors  
611 which shall remain closed at all times except to permit entrance and  
612 egress to and from the lane area. Any alcoholic liquor sold or dispensed

613 in a place operating under a cafe permit issued under subsection (f) of  
614 section 30-22a, as amended by this act, shall be served in containers such  
615 as, but not limited to, plastic or glass. Any town may, by vote of a town  
616 meeting or by ordinance, reduce the number of hours during which  
617 sales under this subsection shall be permissible.

618 (d) The sale or dispensing of alcoholic liquor for off-premises  
619 consumption in places operating under package store permits issued  
620 under subsection (b) of section 30-20, druggist permits issued under  
621 section 30-36, manufacturer permits issued under section 30-16, grocery  
622 store beer permits issued under subsection (c) of section 30-20, religious  
623 wine retailer permits issued under section 30-37s or temporary auction  
624 permits issued under section 30-37u shall be unlawful on Thanksgiving  
625 Day, New Year's Day and Christmas; and such sale or dispensing of  
626 alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption in places operating under  
627 package store permits, druggist permits, manufacturer permits for beer,  
628 grocery store beer permits, religious wine retailer permits and  
629 temporary auction permits shall be unlawful on Sunday before ten  
630 o'clock a.m. and after six o'clock p.m. and on any other day before eight  
631 o'clock a.m. and after ten o'clock p.m. Any town may, by a vote of a town  
632 meeting or by ordinance, reduce the number of hours during which  
633 such sale shall be permissible.

634 (e) (1) In the case of any premises operating under a cafe permit  
635 issued under subsection (c) of section 30-22a, as amended by this act, a  
636 cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued under section 30-22g or a  
637 Connecticut craft cafe permit issued under section 30-22d, and wherein,  
638 under the provisions of this section, the sale of alcoholic liquor is  
639 forbidden on certain days or hours of the day, or during the period  
640 when such permit is suspended, it shall likewise be unlawful to keep  
641 such premises open to, or permit such premises to be occupied by, the  
642 public on such days or hours.

643 (2) In the case of any premises operating under a cafe permit issued  
644 under section 30-22a, as amended by this act, [or] a cafe permit for wine,  
645 beer and cider issued under section 30-22g or a short-term heritage

646 railway cafe permit issued under section 2 of this act, it shall be unlawful  
 647 to keep such premises open to, or permit such premises to be occupied  
 648 by, the public between the hours of one o'clock a.m. and six o'clock a.m.  
 649 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and between  
 650 the hours of two o'clock a.m. and six o'clock a.m. on Saturday and  
 651 Sunday or during any period of time when such permit is suspended,  
 652 provided the sale, dispensing or consumption of alcohol on such  
 653 premises operating under such cafe permit or cafe permit for wine, beer  
 654 and cider shall be prohibited beyond the hours authorized for the sale,  
 655 dispensing or consumption of alcohol for such premises under this  
 656 section.

657 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, in the case of any  
 658 premises operating under a cafe permit issued under section 30-22a, as  
 659 amended by this act, [or] a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider issued  
 660 under section 30-22g or a short-term heritage railway cafe permit issued  
 661 under section 2 of this act, it shall be lawful for such premises to be open  
 662 to, or be occupied by, the public when such premises is being used as a  
 663 site for film, television, video or digital production eligible for a film  
 664 production tax credit pursuant to section 12-217jj, provided the sale,  
 665 dispensing or consumption of alcohol on such premises operating under  
 666 such cafe permit or cafe permit for wine, beer and cider shall be  
 667 prohibited beyond the hours authorized for the sale, dispensing or  
 668 consumption of alcohol for such premises under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	30-1
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	30-12
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	30-14(a) and (b)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	30-22a(a) to (h)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	30-38
Sec. 7	July 1, 2025	30-39(b)
Sec. 8	July 1, 2025	30-45
Sec. 9	July 1, 2025	30-48(a)
Sec. 10	July 1, 2025	30-53

Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	30-54
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	30-91(a) to (e)

**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 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Up to 10,000	Up to 10,000

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill establishes a short-term heritage railway café liquor permit and allows these permittees to convert to a café permit for a reduced fee<sup>1</sup> resulting in a potential revenue loss to the General Fund of up to \$10,000 per year. The potential revenue loss is dependent how many current café liquor permittees meet the requirements of, and switch to, the new short-term heritage railway café permit. It is anticipated this will affect less than five current café liquor permittees.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of café liquor permittees that switch to a short-term heritage railway café liquor permit.

<sup>1</sup>A short-term heritage railway café permit is valid for six months for a fee of \$100. This permit can be converted to a café permit for a reduced annual fee of \$200. The standard fee for a café permit is \$2,000 per year.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5425*****AN ACT CONCERNING HERITAGE RAILWAYS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows heritage railways to sell alcoholic liquor (e.g., beer, wine, or spirits) for public consumption in any club, parlor, dining, buffet, or lounge car of a heritage railway passenger train. It does so by establishing a short-term railway cafe permit and then allowing a permittee to convert to a cafe permit by deeming it in compliance as a heritage railway, except the annual fee is \$200 instead of \$2,000 as for the railway cafe permit.

Under the bill, a “heritage railway” is any railway service that (1) is operated primarily for historical preservation and tourism purposes; (2) has retained or assumed an antiquated appearance or character and antiquated railway operating practices; and (3) uses antiquated railway equipment including antiquated locomotives and rolling stock.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**SHORT-TERM HERITAGE RAILWAY (§ 2)**

The bill establishes a short-term heritage railway cafe permit with abilities substantially similar to railway cafe permittees. Like for railway cafes, the short-term heritage railway cafe permittee is subject to all the privileges, obligations, and penalties under the Liquor Control Act, except that the permit is issued to a corporation instead of an individual. Unlike for railways, the permit is only valid for six months and if it is revoked, the corporation may make another application at any time after six months from the revocation.

***Conversion to Heritage Railway Cafe Permit (§§ 2 & 5)***



During the calendar year a short-term heritage railway cafe permit is issued, the permittee may apply to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in a DCP-set way, to convert the permit into a heritage railway cafe permit. The annual permit's effective date is the date the short-term heritage railway cafe permit was issued. The new permit fee is the cafe permit fee amount of \$200 minus any fee the applicant paid for the short-term heritage railway permit.

### ***Allowable Hours (§ 12)***

Like other permittees for on-premises consumption, short-term heritage railway cafe permittees may only sell, dispense, allow people to consume, or have containers of alcohol during the following hours: generally from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. the next morning on Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the next morning for Friday and Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. the next morning on Sunday. Similarly, they may not be open to, or occupied by, the public outside these times.

Additionally, it is unlawful for the short-term heritage railway cafe permittee to keep the premises open to the public during the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Monday through Friday and 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday or when the permit is suspended.

Regardless of any other law in the Liquor Control Act, the short-term heritage railway cafe permittee may keep the permit premises open to, or occupied by, the public when it is used as a place for film, television, video, or digital production that is eligible for the state film production tax credit. But the permittee is still limited in when he or she may sell, dispense, or allow the consumption of alcohol to the hours above.

### ***Extension of Cafe Permittee for Railway Abilities, Exemptions, and Requirements (§§ 3, 4 & 6-11)***

The bill also extends to short-term heritage railway cafe permittees the same provisions that apply to railway cafe permittees under existing law. This includes provisions:

1. exempting them from a town vote to void liquor permits (§ 3);

2. allowing the permit to be for less than a year and to be granted to a corporation rather than a person (§ 4);
3. allowing them to store alcoholic liquor on the premises and at one other secure location registered and approved by DCP (§ 6);
4. exempting them from having to (a) submit certain documents proving local compliance, (b) post newspaper notices, (c) put certain notices on the proposed premises, and (d) be subject to a DCP suitability hearing (§ 7);
5. exempting them from the law requiring DCP to refuse liquor permits to certain people (e.g., certain law enforcement officials and minors) (§ 8);
6. allowing backers or permittees of this permit to hold another permit in another permit class (§ 9);
7. requiring the permittee to file a duplicate of the permit with the New Haven town clerk before the permit is effective (§ 10); and
8. exempting them from having to frame and hang the permit or a duplicate in plain view (§ 11).

## COMMITTEE ACTION

### General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    22    Nay    0    (03/12/2025)