



House of Representatives

File No. 954

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 300)

House Bill No. 5425
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 27, 2025

AN ACT CONCERNING RAILWAYS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 30-22a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2025*):

4 (a) A cafe permit shall allow the retail sale of alcoholic liquor to be
5 consumed on the premises of a cafe. The holder of a cafe permit shall
6 keep food available for sale to its customers for consumption on the
7 premises during the majority of the hours such premises are open. The
8 availability of food from outside vendors located on or near the
9 premises, who may directly deliver such food or indirectly deliver such
10 food through a third party, shall be deemed to constitute compliance
11 with such requirement. The licensed premises shall at all times comply
12 with all the regulations of the local department of health. Nothing herein
13 shall be construed to require that any food be sold or purchased with
14 any alcoholic liquor, nor shall any rule, regulation or standard be

15 promulgated or enforced to require that sales of food be substantial or
 16 that the business's receipts from sales of alcoholic liquor equal any set
 17 percentage of total receipts from all sales made on the licensed premises.
 18 A cafe permit shall allow, with the prior approval of the Department of
 19 Consumer Protection, alcoholic liquor to be served at tables in outside
 20 areas that are screened or not screened from public view where
 21 permitted by fire, zoning and health regulations. If not required by fire,
 22 zoning or health regulations, a fence or wall enclosing such outside
 23 areas shall not be required by the Department of Consumer Protection.
 24 No fence or wall used to enclose such outside areas shall be less than
 25 thirty inches high. Such permit shall also authorize the sale at retail from
 26 the premises of sealed containers, supplied by the permittee, of draught
 27 beer for consumption off the premises. Such sales shall be conducted
 28 only during the hours a package store is permitted to sell alcoholic
 29 liquor under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91. Not more
 30 than four liters of such beer shall be sold to any person on any day on
 31 which the sale of alcoholic liquor is authorized under the provisions of
 32 subsection (d) of section 30-91. The annual fee for a cafe permit shall be
 33 two thousand dollars, except the annual fee for a cafe permit for (1) a
 34 prior holder of a tavern permit issued under section 30-26 shall be eight
 35 hundred dollars for the first year, twelve hundred dollars for the second
 36 year, one thousand six hundred dollars for the third year and two
 37 thousand dollars for each year thereafter, and (2) a railway shall be two
 38 hundred dollars.

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

Section 1	July 1, 2025	30-22a(a)
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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 18,000	Up to 18,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill reduces the annual fee for a café permit from \$2,000 to \$200 for railways resulting in a potential revenue loss to the General Fund of up to \$18,000 per year. The potential revenue loss is dependent on how many café liquor permittees meet the requirements of a railway. It is anticipated this will affect less than ten café permittees.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of railways applying for a café permit.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5425 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING HERITAGE RAILWAYS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR.*****SUMMARY**

This bill lowers the annual fee for cafe permits for a railway from \$2,000 to \$200.

By law, these cafe permits are for any corporation that operates a railway in Connecticut or that operates club, parlor, dining, buffet, or lounge cars on Connecticut railway lines. The permit allows for the sale and public consumption of alcoholic liquor in any of these areas on the train.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which established a short-term railway cafe permit and then allowed a permittee to convert to a cafe permit at a reduced annual fee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/12/2025)