



House Bill No. 5425

Public Act No. 25-40

AN ACT CONCERNING RAILWAYS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR.

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

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 Subsection (a) of section 30-22a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) A cafe permit shall allow the retail sale of alcoholic liquor to be consumed on the premises of a cafe. The holder of a cafe permit shall keep food available for sale to its customers for consumption on the premises during the majority of the hours such premises are open. The availability of food from outside vendors located on or near the premises, who may directly deliver such food or indirectly deliver such food through a third party, shall be deemed to constitute compliance with such requirement. The licensed premises shall at all times comply with all the regulations of the local department of health. Nothing herein shall be construed to require that any food be sold or purchased with any alcoholic liquor, nor shall any rule, regulation or standard be promulgated or enforced to require that sales of food be substantial or that the business's receipts from sales of alcoholic liquor equal any set percentage of total receipts from all sales made on the licensed premises. A cafe permit shall allow, with the prior approval of the Department of Consumer Protection, alcoholic liquor to be served at tables in outside

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areas that are screened or not screened from public view where permitted by fire, zoning and health regulations. If not required by fire, zoning or health regulations, a fence or wall enclosing such outside areas shall not be required by the Department of Consumer Protection. No fence or wall used to enclose such outside areas shall be less than thirty inches high. Such permit shall also authorize the sale at retail from the premises of sealed containers, supplied by the permittee, of draught beer for consumption off the premises. Such sales shall be conducted only during the hours a package store is permitted to sell alcoholic liquor under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91. Not more than four liters of such beer shall be sold to any person on any day on which the sale of alcoholic liquor is authorized under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 30-91. The annual fee for a cafe permit shall be two thousand dollars, except the annual fee for a cafe permit for (1) a prior holder of a tavern permit issued under section 30-26 shall be eight hundred dollars for the first year, twelve hundred dollars for the second year, one thousand six hundred dollars for the third year and two thousand dollars for each year thereafter, and (2) a railway shall be two hundred dollars.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 23, 2025