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HOUSE BILL NO. 1429

Offered January 22, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 4.1-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to alcoholic beverage control; definitions; designer and vintage spirit bottles.

 Patron—Simon

 Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 4.1-100 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 4.1-100. Definitions.**

As used in this subtitle unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Alcohol" means the product known as ethyl or grain alcohol obtained by distillation of any fermented liquor, rectified either once or more often, whatever the origin, and shall include synthetic ethyl alcohol, but shall not include methyl alcohol and alcohol completely denatured in accordance with formulas approved by the government of the United States.

"Alcohol vaporizing device" means any device, machine, or process that mixes any alcoholic beverages with pure oxygen or other gas to produce a vaporized product for the purpose of consumption by inhalation.

"Alcoholic beverages" includes alcohol, spirits, wine, and beer, and any one or more of such varieties containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, including mixed alcoholic beverages, and every liquid or solid, powder or crystal, patented or not, containing alcohol, spirits, wine, or beer and capable of being consumed by a human being. Any liquid or solid containing more than one of the four varieties shall be considered as belonging to that variety which has the higher percentage of alcohol, however obtained, according to the order in which they are set forth in this definition; except that beer may be manufactured to include flavoring materials and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol, as long as no more than 49 percent of the overall alcohol content of the finished product is derived from the addition of flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol for products with an alcohol content of no more than six percent by volume; or, in the case of products with an alcohol content of more than six percent by volume, as long as no more than one and one-half percent of the volume of the finished product consists of alcohol derived from added flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol.

"Arts venue" means a commercial or nonprofit establishment that is open to the public and in which works of art are sold or displayed.

"Authority" means the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority created pursuant to this subtitle.

"Barrel" means any container or vessel having a capacity of more than 43 ounces.

"Bed and breakfast establishment" means any establishment (i) having no more than 15 bedrooms; (ii) offering to the public, for compensation, transitory lodging or sleeping accommodations; and (iii) offering at least one meal per day, which may but need not be breakfast, to each person to whom overnight lodging is provided. For purposes of the licensing requirements of this subtitle, "bed and breakfast establishment" includes any property offered to the public for short-term rental, as that term is defined in § 15.2-983, other than a hotel as defined in this section, regardless of whether a meal is offered to each person to whom overnight lodging is provided.

"Beer" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by the fermentation of an infusion or decoction of barley, malt, and hops or of any similar products in drinkable water and containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority.

"Bottle" means any vessel intended to contain liquids and having a capacity of not more than 43 ounces.

"Bus" means a motor vehicle that (i) is operated by a common carrier licensed under Chapter 20 (§ 46.2-2000 et seq.) of Title 46.2 to transport passengers for compensation over the highways of the Commonwealth on regular or irregular routes of not less than 100 miles, (ii) seats no more than 24 passengers, (iii) is 40 feet in length or longer, (iv) offers wireless Internet services, (v) is equipped with charging stations at every seat for cellular phones or other portable devices, and (vi) during the transportation of passengers, is staffed by an attendant who has satisfied all training requirements set forth in this subtitle or Board regulation.

"Club" means any private nonprofit corporation or association which is the owner, lessee, or occupant of an establishment operated solely for a national, social, patriotic, political, athletic, or other like purpose, but not for pecuniary gain, the advantages of which belong to all of the members. It also means the establishment so operated. A corporation or association shall not lose its status as a club because of the conduct of charitable gaming conducted pursuant to Article 1.1:1 (§ 18.2-340.15 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2 in

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59 which nonmembers participate frequently or in large numbers, provided that no alcoholic beverages are
60 served or consumed in the room where such charitable gaming is being conducted while such gaming is being
61 conducted and that no alcoholic beverages are made available upon the premises to any person who is neither
62 a member nor a bona fide guest of a member.

63 Any such corporation or association which has been declared exempt from federal and state income taxes
64 as one which is not organized and operated for pecuniary gain or profit shall be deemed a nonprofit
65 corporation or association.

66 "Commercial lifestyle center" means a mixed-use commercial development covering a minimum of 10
67 acres of land and having at least 100,000 square feet of retail space featuring national specialty chain stores
68 and a combination of dining, entertainment, office, residential, or hotel establishments located in a physically
69 integrated outdoor setting that is pedestrian friendly and that is governed by a commercial owners' association
70 that is responsible for the management, maintenance, and operation of the common areas thereof.

71 "Container" means any barrel, bottle, carton, keg, vessel, or other receptacle used for holding alcoholic
72 beverages.

73 "Contract winemaking facility" means the premises of a licensed winery or farm winery that obtains
74 grapes, fruits, and other agricultural products from a person holding a winery or farm winery license and
75 crushes, processes, ferments, bottles, or provides any combination of such services pursuant to an agreement
76 with the winery or farm winery licensee. For all purposes of this subtitle, wine produced by a contract
77 winemaking facility for a winery or farm winery shall be considered to be wine owned and produced by the
78 winery or farm winery that supplied the grapes, fruits, or other agricultural products used in the production of
79 the wine. The contract winemaking facility shall have no right to sell the wine so produced, unless the terms
80 of payment have not been fulfilled in accordance with the contract. The contract winemaking facility may
81 charge the winery or farm winery for its services. A winery licensee may utilize contract winemaking
82 services only for the manufacture or processing of wine of which no less than 90 percent of the grapes, fruits,
83 and other agricultural products used to make such wine are grown in the Commonwealth.

84 "Convenience grocery store" means an establishment that (i) has an enclosed room in a permanent
85 structure where stock is displayed and offered for sale and (ii) maintains an inventory of edible items
86 intended for human consumption consisting of a variety of such items of the types normally sold in grocery
87 stores.

88 "Culinary lodging resort" means a facility (i) having not less than 13 overnight guest rooms in a building
89 that has at least 20,000 square feet of indoor floor space; (ii) located on a farm in the Commonwealth with at
90 least 1,000 acres of land zoned agricultural; (iii) equipped with a full-service kitchen; and (iv) offering to the
91 public, for compensation, at least one meal per day, lodging, and recreational and educational activities
92 related to farming, livestock, and other rural activities.

93 "Delicatessen" means an establishment that sells a variety of prepared foods or foods requiring little
94 preparation, such as cheeses, salads, cooked meats, and related condiments.

95 "Designated area" means a room or area approved by the Board for on-premises licensees.

96 "*Designer spirit bottle*" means a bottle of spirits that (i) is considered upscale, fashionable, or in high
97 demand and (ii) is not readily available for purchase in government stores, is available only for in-store
98 purchases in limited quantities, or is sold through the Authority's spirits lottery process.

99 "Dining area" means a public room or area in which meals are regularly served.

100 "Drugstore" means an establishment that sells medicines prepared by a licensed pharmacist pursuant to a
101 prescription and other medicines and items for home and general use.

102 "Establishment" means any place where alcoholic beverages of one or more varieties are lawfully
103 manufactured, sold, or used.

104 "Farm winery" means (i) an establishment or cooperative located in the Commonwealth on land zoned
105 agricultural that has (a) a vineyard, orchard, or similar growing area that produces fruits or other agricultural
106 products used to manufacture the wine of such farm winery, subject to the requirements set forth in § 4.1-219,
107 and (b) facilities for fermenting and bottling wine on the premises where such farm winery manufactures
108 wine that contains not more than 21 percent alcohol by volume or (ii) an accredited public or private
109 institution of higher education, provided that (a) no wine manufactured by the institution shall be sold, (b) the
110 wine manufactured by the institution shall be used solely for research and educational purposes, (c) the wine
111 manufactured by the institution shall be stored on the premises of such farm winery that shall be separate and
112 apart from all other facilities of the institution, and (d) such farm winery is operated in strict conformance
113 with the requirements of this clause (ii) and Board regulations. As used in this definition, the term
114 "cooperative" means a cooperative formed by an association of individuals for the purpose of manufacturing
115 wine. In determining whether a cooperative licensed as a farm winery has met the requirements set forth in
116 clause (i), the Board shall consider all land in the Commonwealth that is owned or leased by a member of the
117 cooperative. For purposes of this definition, "land zoned agricultural" means (1) land zoned as an agricultural
118 district or classification or (2) land otherwise permitted by a locality for farm winery use. For purposes of this
119 definition, "land zoned agricultural" does not include land zoned "residential conservation." Except for the
120 limitation on land zoned "residential conservation," nothing in the definition of "land zoned agricultural" shall

121 otherwise limit or affect local zoning authority.

122 "Gift shop" means any bona fide retail store selling, predominantly, gifts, books, souvenirs, specialty
 123 items relating to history, original and handmade arts and products, collectibles, crafts, and floral
 124 arrangements, which is open to the public on a regular basis. Such shop shall be a permanent structure where
 125 stock is displayed and offered for sale and which has facilities to properly secure any stock of wine or beer.
 126 Such shop may be located (i) on the premises or grounds of a government registered national, state or local
 127 historic building or site or (ii) within the premises of a museum. The Board shall consider the purpose,
 128 characteristics, nature, and operation of the shop in determining whether it shall be considered a gift shop.

129 "Gourmet brewing shop" means an establishment which sells to persons to whom wine or beer may
 130 lawfully be sold, ingredients for making wine or brewing beer, including packaging, and rents to such persons
 131 facilities for manufacturing, fermenting and bottling such wine or beer.

132 "Gourmet oyster house" means an establishment that (i) is located on the premises of a commercial
 133 marina, (ii) is permitted by the Department of Health to serve oysters and other fresh seafood for
 134 consumption on the premises, and (iii) offers to the public events for the purpose of featuring and educating
 135 the consuming public about local oysters and other seafood products.

136 "Gourmet shop" means an establishment provided with adequate inventory, shelving, and storage
 137 facilities, where, in consideration of payment, substantial amounts of domestic and imported wines and beers
 138 of various types and sizes and related products such as cheeses and gourmet foods are habitually furnished to
 139 persons.

140 "Government store" means a store established by the Authority for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

141 "Grocery store" means an establishment that sells food and other items intended for human consumption,
 142 including a variety of ingredients commonly used in the preparation of meals.

143 "Historic cinema house" means a nonprofit establishment exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the
 144 Internal Revenue Code that was built prior to 1970 and that exists for the primary purpose of showing motion
 145 pictures to the public.

146 "Hotel" means any duly licensed establishment, provided with special space and accommodation, where,
 147 in consideration of payment, food and lodging are habitually furnished to persons, and which has four or
 148 more bedrooms. It shall also mean the person who operates such hotel.

149 "Interdicted person" means a person to whom the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by order
 150 pursuant to this subtitle.

151 "Internet wine and beer retailer" means a person who owns or operates an establishment with adequate
 152 inventory, shelving, and storage facilities, where, in consideration of payment, Internet or telephone orders
 153 are taken and shipped directly to consumers and which establishment is not a retail store open to the public.

154 "Intoxicated" means a condition in which a person has drunk enough alcoholic beverages to observably
 155 affect his manner, disposition, speech, muscular movement, general appearance, or behavior.

156 "Licensed" means the holding of a valid license granted by the Authority.

157 "Licensee" means any person to whom a license has been granted by the Authority.

158 "Liqueur" means any of a class of highly flavored alcoholic beverages that do not exceed an alcohol
 159 content of 25 percent by volume.

160 "Low alcohol beverage cooler" means a drink containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by
 161 volume, but not more than seven and one-half percent alcohol by volume, and consisting of spirits mixed
 162 with nonalcoholic beverages or flavoring or coloring materials; it may also contain water, fruit juices, fruit
 163 adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, preservatives or other similar products manufactured by fermenting fruit or
 164 fruit juices. Low alcohol beverage coolers shall be treated as wine for all purposes of this subtitle, except that
 165 low alcohol beverage coolers may be manufactured by a licensed distiller or a distiller located outside the
 166 Commonwealth.

167 "Marina store" means an establishment that is located on the same premises as a marina, is operated by
 168 the owner of such marina, and sells food and nautical and fishing supplies.

169 "Meals" means, for a mixed beverage license, an assortment of foods commonly ordered in bona fide,
 170 full-service restaurants as principal meals of the day. Such restaurants shall include establishments
 171 specializing in full course meals with a single substantial entree.

172 "Member of a club" means (i) a person who maintains his membership in the club by the payment of
 173 monthly, quarterly, or annual dues in the manner established by the rules and regulations thereof or (ii) a
 174 person who is a member of a bona fide auxiliary, local chapter, or squadron composed of direct lineal
 175 descendants of a bona fide member, whether alive or deceased, of a national or international organization to
 176 which an individual lodge holding a club license is an authorized member in the same locality. It shall also
 177 mean a lifetime member whose financial contribution is not less than 10 times the annual dues of resident
 178 members of the club, the full amount of such contribution being paid in advance in a lump sum.

179 "Mixed beverage" or "mixed alcoholic beverage" means a drink composed in whole or in part of spirits.

180 "Mixer" means any prepackaged ingredients containing beverages or flavoring or coloring materials, and
 181 which may also contain water, fruit juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, or preservatives which are

182 not commonly consumed unless combined with alcoholic beverages, whether or not such ingredients contain
183 alcohol. Such specialty beverage product shall be manufactured or distributed by a Virginia corporation.

184 "Municipal golf course" means any golf course that is owned by any town incorporated in 1849 and which
185 is the county seat of Smyth County.

186 "Performing arts facility" means an indoor or outdoor amphitheater, arena, multipurpose theater, or
187 similar facility at which live musical, dance, theatre, or similar performances, the types of which are
188 approved by the Authority, are performed, provided that the facility has stationary stadium or similar seating
189 for more than 500 persons.

190 "Place or premises" means the real estate, together with any buildings or other improvements thereon,
191 designated in the application for a license as the place at which the manufacture, bottling, distribution, use or
192 sale of alcoholic beverages shall be performed, except that portion of any such building or other improvement
193 actually and exclusively used as a private residence.

194 "Principal stockholder" means any person who individually or in concert with his spouse and immediate
195 family members beneficially owns or controls, directly or indirectly, five percent or more of the equity
196 ownership of any person that is a licensee of the Authority, or who in concert with his spouse and immediate
197 family members has the power to vote or cause the vote of five percent or more of any such equity
198 ownership. "Principal stockholder" does not include a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange
199 Act of 1934, as amended, that holds in inventory shares for sale on the financial markets for a publicly traded
200 corporation holding, directly or indirectly, a license from the Authority.

201 "Public place" means any place, building, or conveyance to which the public has, or is permitted to have,
202 access, including restaurants, soda fountains, hotel dining areas, lobbies and corridors of hotels, and any park,
203 place of public resort or amusement, highway, street, lane, or sidewalk adjoining any highway, street, or lane.

204 "Public place" does not include (i) hotel or restaurant dining areas or ballrooms while in use for private
205 meetings or private parties limited in attendance to members and guests of a particular group, association or
206 organization; (ii) restaurants licensed by the Authority in office buildings or industrial or similar facilities
207 while such restaurant is closed to the public and in use for private meetings or parties limited in attendance to
208 employees and nonpaying guests of the owner or a lessee of all or part of such building or facility; (iii)
209 offices, office buildings or industrial facilities while closed to the public and in use for private meetings or
210 parties limited in attendance to employees and nonpaying guests of the owner or a lessee of all or part of such
211 building or facility; or (iv) private recreational or chartered boats which are not licensed by the Board and on
212 which alcoholic beverages are not sold.

213 "Residence" means any building or part of a building or structure where a person resides, but does not
214 include any part of a building that is not actually and exclusively used as a private residence, nor any part of a
215 hotel or club other than a private guest room thereof.

216 "Resort complex" means a facility (i) with a hotel owning year-round sports and recreational facilities
217 located contiguously on the same property; (ii) owned by a nonstock, nonprofit, taxable corporation with
218 voluntary membership which, as its primary function, makes available golf, ski, and other recreational
219 facilities both to its members and to the general public; or (iii) operated by a corporation that operates as a
220 management company which, as its primary function, makes available (a) vacation accommodations, guest
221 rooms, or dwelling units and (b) golf, ski, and other recreational facilities to members of the managed entities
222 and the general public. The hotel or corporation shall have or manage a minimum of 140 private guest rooms
223 or dwelling units contained on not less than 50 acres, whether or not contiguous to the licensed premises; if
224 the guest rooms or dwelling units are located on property that is not contiguous to the licensed premises, such
225 guest rooms and dwelling units shall be located within the same locality. The Authority may consider the
226 purpose, characteristics, and operation of the applicant establishment in determining whether it shall be
227 considered as a resort complex. All other pertinent qualifications established by the Board for a hotel
228 operation shall be observed by such licensee.

229 "Restaurant" means, for a wine and beer license or a limited mixed beverage restaurant license, any
230 establishment provided with special space and accommodation, where, in consideration of payment, meals or
231 other foods prepared on the premises are regularly sold.

232 "Restaurant" means, for a mixed beverage license other than a limited mixed beverage restaurant license,
233 an established place of business (i) where meals with substantial entrees are regularly sold and (ii) which has
234 adequate facilities and sufficient employees for cooking, preparing, and serving such meals for consumption
235 at tables in dining areas on the premises, and includes establishments specializing in full course meals with a
236 single substantial entree.

237 "Sale" and "sell" includes soliciting or receiving an order for; keeping, offering or exposing for sale;
238 peddling, exchanging or bartering; or delivering otherwise than gratuitously, by any means, alcoholic
239 beverages.

240 "Sangria" means a drink consisting of red or white wine mixed with some combination of sweeteners,
241 fruit, fruit juice, soda, or soda water that may also be mixed with brandy, triple sec, or other similar spirits.

242 "Special agent" means an employee of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority whom the
243 Board has designated as a law-enforcement officer pursuant to § 4.1-105.

244 "Special event" means an event sponsored by a duly organized nonprofit corporation or association and
245 conducted for an athletic, charitable, civic, educational, political, or religious purpose.

246 "Spirits" means any beverage that contains alcohol obtained by distillation mixed with drinkable water
247 and other substances, in solution, and includes, among other things, brandy, rum, whiskey, and gin, or any
248 one or more of the last four named ingredients, but shall not include any such liquors completely denatured in
249 accordance with formulas approved by the United States government.

250 "Sports facility" means a coliseum, stadium, racetrack, or similar facility at which professional sports, as
251 defined in § 58.1-4030, or similar events, the types of which are approved by the Authority, are conducted.

252 "*Vintage spirit bottle*" means a bottle of spirits that has a unique size, shape, color, label, recipe, or age
253 that renders such bottle collectible.

254 "Wine" means any alcoholic beverage, including cider, obtained by the fermentation of the natural sugar
255 content of fruits or other agricultural products containing (i) sugar, including honey and milk, either with or
256 without additional sugar; (ii) one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume; and (iii) no product of
257 distillation. "Wine" includes any wine to which wine spirits have been added, as provided in the Internal
258 Revenue Code, to make products commonly known as "fortified wine" which do not exceed an alcohol
259 content of 21 percent by volume.

260 "Wine cooler" means a drink containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, and not
261 more than three and two-tenths percent of alcohol by weight or four percent by volume consisting of wine
262 mixed with nonalcoholic beverages or flavoring or coloring materials, and which may also contain water,
263 fruit juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, or preservatives and shall include other similar products
264 manufactured by fermenting fruit or fruit juices. Wine coolers and similar fermented fruit juice beverages
265 shall be treated as wine for all purposes except for taxation under § 4.1-236.

266 "With or without meals" means the selling and serving of alcoholic beverages by retail licensees for
267 on-premises consumption whether or not accompanied by food so long as the total food-beverage ratio
268 required by § 4.1-206.3, or the monthly food sale requirement established by Board regulation, is met by such
269 retail licensee.