



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

For Immediate Release:

May 12, 2016

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Forrester urges study of Liquor Commission's three-tier system

Supports even playing field for small alcohol producers to expand in NH

Concord, NH – Today, the Senate passed HB 197 in order to establish a study commission for the purpose of looking at the Liquor Commission and the three tier system for distributing, producing and selling alcohol in the State of New Hampshire in light of the growing trend of small business producers of these products.

Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith) issued the following statement.

"We've heard that the three tier system that New Hampshire operates under for selling beer, wine and hard alcohol is not meeting the challenges of a changing industry in our state. More and more we are seeing new wineries, breweries and distilleries looking to grow, attracting tourists and creating jobs in our state."

"We realize that these producers would like to open retail shops to sell their products. This legislation establishes the necessary outline to study the benefits and effects retail stores owned and operated by producers would have on the industry and our state, which relies heavily on the revenue brought in by the Liquor Commission that currently operates under this three tier system."

"We want to ensure that we provide a level playing field for all alcohol producers in the state. The original bill provided a carve-out for wineries and excluded breweries and distilleries. We are confident that studying this issue further will have a positive effect on this industry in the future and we've set a reporting deadline that will enable the legislature to bring forward legislation in a timely manner."

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