HOUSE BILL 598

AN ACT establishing a commission to study beer, wine, and liquor tourism.

SPONSORS: Rep. Williams, Hills. 4

COMMITTEE: Commerce and Consumer Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study beer, wine, and liquor tourism in New Hampshire.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in bold italics. Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struck through.] Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.
AN ACT establishing a commission to study beer, wine, and liquor tourism.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

111:1 New Section; Commission on New Hampshire Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tourism. Amend RSA 425 by inserting after section 2-a the following new section:


I. There is established a commission to study beer, wine, and liquor tourism in New Hampshire. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

(c) The commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and foods, or designee.

(d) The chairperson of the New Hampshire state liquor commission, or designee.

(e) The commissioner of the department of transportation, or designee.

(f) The department of business and economic affairs, director of the division of travel and tourism development, or designee.

(g) One representative from the New Hampshire Winery Association, appointed by the association.

(h) One representative from the New Hampshire Brewers’ Association, appointed by the association.

(i) Two members of the general public, appointed by the governor.

(j) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee.

(k) One member representing New Hampshire liquor manufacturers, appointed by the governor.

II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III. The commission shall develop a plan for New Hampshire beer, wine, and liquor tourism, including beer, wine, and liquor trails with signage along New Hampshire highways, changes to liquor commission laws and rules that would enhance tourist experiences at New Hampshire wineries, breweries, and liquor manufacturers, and coordination of beer and wine tourism marketing efforts among the department of agriculture, markets, and food, the division of travel and tourism development of the department of business and economic affairs, the department of transportation,
and wine and beer producer associations. The commission shall also consider mechanisms to allow the operator of a "farm to table" dinner featuring New Hampshire produced food items to offer locally produced alcoholic beverages with meals. The commission may also study any other subject related to its purpose.

IV. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum. The commission shall hold public meetings at least once per month and shall solicit and consider from interested parties testimony, documents, and other information pertaining to the commission's work.

V. The commission shall submit an interim report on November 1, 2019, and a final report including its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2020.

111:2 Repeal. RSA 425:2-b, relative to the commission to study beer, wine, and liquor tourism in New Hampshire, is repealed.

111:3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2020.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: June 21, 2019
Effective Date:
I. Section 2 shall take effect November 1, 2020.
II. Remainder shall take effect June 21, 2019.