

Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER: H445

TITLE: An Act relative to termination of sales to wholesalers by suppliers of alcoholic beverages

SPONSOR(S): Moran, Michael J.

HEARING DATE: May 12, 2025

REPORTING DEADLINE: July 11, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY

(2023-2024): H4477 – Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling; House passed to be engrossed; referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

Section 25E of Chapter 138 of the General Laws makes it an unfair trade practice for a manufacturer of any alcoholic beverage, absent “good cause”, to refuse to sell to a wholesaler a brand item if the wholesaler has made regular sales of such brand item in the preceding six months. Essentially, manufacturers (brewers) cannot cancel an existing contract or refuse to sell to a wholesaler without good cause.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to ensure that any distiller, manufacturer, importer or producer which obtains the right to sell, ship or distribute any brand item under section 25E shall still be subject to all the rights privileges, duties, and obligations of its predecessor from whom the brand was acquired from.