

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

BILL NUMBER: H456

TITLE: An Act relative to the creation of additional business opportunities for alcohol retailers

SPONSOR(S): Reid, Sean

HEARING DATE: May 12, 2025

REPORTING DEADLINE: July 11, 2025

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws governs alcohol in the Commonwealth.

Section 15 of said chapter regulates the off-premises alcohol consumption in the Commonwealth.

Section 19A of said chapter governs the issuance of annual permits to individual salespeople working for various alcohol licensees to solicit orders from other licensees authorized to purchase from their employers.

Section 19B of said chapter regulates farmer-winery licenses.

Section 19C of said chapter regulates farmer-brewery licenses.

Section 19F of said chapter regulates direct wine shipper licenses.

Section 22 of said chapter governs the transportation of alcoholic beverages within the Commonwealth and under what conditions such transportation may be allowed by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for personal use, by licensed caterers, and by licensed sellers, common carriers, general express/trucking businesses and truck leasing companies (that do not hold section 19A permits), and certain retail deliveries via parcel delivery services from licensees under sections 19B, 19C, and 19F. Knowingly transporting alcohol without authorization can result in a fine up to \$2,500, imprisonment up to six months, or both.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to establish an annual license to be issued and governed by the commission to allow for the operation of online wine and malt beverage stores without a requirement that such stores have a physical storefront within the Commonwealth.

Further, this legislation also seeks to allow section 15 licensed retailers to sell wine and malt beverages for direct shipping to customers in any state, provided they also secure a transportation license under section 22 allowing for such sales anywhere in or outside of the Commonwealth and available to such section 15 license holders and online wine and malt beverage stores.