

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

<u>BILL NUMBER:</u>	H477
<u>TITLE:</u>	An Act modernizing the Massachusetts laws
<u>SPONSOR(S):</u>	Worrell, Christopher J.
<u>HEARING DATE:</u>	May 12, 2025
<u>REPORTING DEADLINE:</u>	July 11, 2025
<u>SIMILAR MATTER(S):</u>	H36 (Treasurer)

PRIOR HISTORY

(2023-2024): S176 – Accompanied a new draft, see S2628, reported favorably by Committee; Referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

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

Section 12 of said chapter regulates the on-premises alcohol consumption in the Commonwealth. No person who has been convicted of a federal or state narcotics crime may be issued a license under section 12.

Section 15 of said chapter regulates the off-premises alcohol consumption in the Commonwealth. No person who has been convicted of a felony crime may be issued a license under section 15.

Section 19B of said chapter regulates farmer-wineries.

Section 19C of said chapter regulates farmer-breweries.

Section 19E of said chapter regulates farmer-distilleries.

Section 19H of said chapter governs the ability for such licensed farmer-wineries, farmer-brewers, and farmer-distillers to sell for on-premises consumption alcoholic beverages produced on site.

Section 23 of said chapter governs the nature of alcoholic beverage licenses and permits; their status as property rights; regulatory authorities' refusal to issue or reissue; license revocation, refunding of fees, transfers, death, receivership or bankruptcy of licensee; expirations; and pledging for loans.

Section 67 of said chapter governs appeals on refusals to grant or revocations of alcoholic licenses; hearings; notices of approvals; and re-appeals processes.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to authorize on premises alcoholic beverage consumption within certain non-contiguous area licensed premises subject to approval by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission.

Further, it removes the current restriction prohibiting any applicant who has been convicted of a federal or state narcotic drugs charge from holding an on premises alcoholic beverages consumption license; as well as the current restriction prohibiting any applicant who has been convicted of a felony from holding an off-premises alcoholic beverages consumption license. The legislation provides that applicants for any license under Chapter 138 must be of satisfactory character to local and state licensing authorities.

Further, the legislation seeks to extend the period of time in which any aggrieved applicant may appeal a local licensing board decision to the Commission from “five” to “ten business days” after notice of such local action.