

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

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**BILL NUMBER:** H414

**TITLE:** An Act relative to outdoor dining

**SPONSOR(S):** Kassner, Kristin

**HEARING DATE:** July 7, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** September 5, 2025

**CURRENT LAW**

Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws oversees the sale, distribution, and use of alcohol in the Commonwealth. Section 1 of said chapter contains definitions that apply throughout.

105 CMR 590.00 establishes the minimum sanitary standards for food establishments.

Section 3B of Chapter 40A of the General Laws governs the process of permitting expanded outdoor table service, flexibility to modify terms to address prior concerns, and authorizes local licensing authorities to permit such outdoor expansions for alcohol service without prior MA Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission approval; although the Commission retains enforcement over such licensees, and appeal processes remain.

**SUMMARY**

This legislation seeks to allow local licensing authorities to grant a change in a licensed premises' description for the purposes of expanding outdoor alcohol service without the need for further review or approval from the MA Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Further, this legislation would repeal the current regulations for expansion for the purposes of outdoor dining.