

Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER: H390

TITLE: An Act relative to license suspensions

SPONSOR(S): Howitt, Stephen

HEARING DATE: April 14, 2025

REPORTING DEADLINE: June 13, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY

(2021-2022): H392 – Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to House Steering, Policy and Scheduling; Read second and ordered to a third reading.

(2023-2024): H322 - Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to House Steering, Policy and Scheduling; Read second and ordered to a third reading.

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 34 of said chapter prohibits the sale, delivery, or furnishing of alcoholic beverages to individuals under the age of 21; and the employing of individuals under the age of 18 in the direct handling, selling, mixing or serving of alcohol or alcoholic beverages.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to mandate that if a grocery or convenience store is found to be in violation of section 34 of Chapter 138, that all retail sales from the location must be shut down for the duration of the suspension, not only the retail sale of alcohol.