

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2397

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Imposes \$0.25 surcharge on alcoholic beverages to be dedicated to Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning alcoholic beverages and supplementing Title 33  
2 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. a. A person who holds a plenary retail consumption license  
8 or seasonal retail consumption license in a municipality in this State  
9 where 200 or more of these licenses currently are active or inactive  
10 shall include in the price charged for each alcoholic beverage sold  
11 on the licensed premises a fee of \$0.25. These fees shall be payable  
12 to the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control in the  
13 Department of Law and Public Safety.

14 b. The fees paid to the director under subsection a. of this  
15 section shall be deposited in the Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation  
16 and Enforcement Fund established pursuant to section 3 of  
17 P.L.1983, c.531 (C.26:2B-32).

18 c. The director shall promulgate guidelines or directives  
19 necessary to implement this act.

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21 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
22 month next following the date of enactment, except the Director of  
23 the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control may take any  
24 anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be  
25 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill provides for a \$0.25 fee to be included in the price of  
31 each alcoholic beverage sold in certain municipalities for the  
32 purpose of funding alcohol education, rehabilitation and  
33 enforcement.

34 Under the bill, the holder of a retail liquor license authorizing the  
35 sale of alcoholic beverages in a restaurant or bar which is located in  
36 a municipality with 200 or more of these licenses currently active or  
37 inactive is required to charge a fee of \$0.25 to be included in the  
38 price of each alcoholic beverage sold on the licensed premises.  
39 These fees are to be collected by the Director of the Division of  
40 Alcoholic Beverage Control and deposited in the Alcohol  
41 Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund (AEREF).

42 The AEREF supports programs aimed at alcohol and drug  
43 abusers. It is funded by an excise tax on licensed manufacturers,  
44 wholesalers, and State distributors of alcoholic beverages. The  
45 AEREF also receives moneys from a \$100 fee paid by convicted  
46 drunk drivers. Proceeds from the AEREF are dedicated as follows:  
47 75 percent to rehabilitation, 15 percent to enforcement, and 10  
48 percent to education. The proceeds are distributed to the State's 21

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1 counties according to a statutory formula based on population,  
2 income, and need.

3 Under this bill, the AEREF also would receive the proceeds from  
4 the \$0.25 per drink fee imposed by the bill on alcoholic beverages  
5 sold in restaurants and bars in municipalities with a large number of  
6 retail liquor licenses.