

SENATE, No. 1315

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Permits municipalities to issue retail liquor licenses for use in certain historic taverns.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning alcoholic beverage licenses and supplementing
2 Title 33 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:*

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7 1. a. For the purposes of this act, “historic tavern” means a
8 building constructed prior to 1920, which is included in the New
9 Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic
10 Places, and at which the sale and service of alcoholic beverages for
11 consumption on the premises was the primary and principal
12 business prior to 1920.

13 b. The governing board or body of any municipality may issue
14 a plenary retail consumption license to a person who is the highest
15 qualified bidder on a historic tavern that has been placed on the
16 abandoned property list pursuant to section 36 of P.L.1996, c.62
17 (C.55:19-55) and is sold in a special tax sale in accordance with
18 section 24 of P.L.2003, c.210 (C.55:19-101). The governing board
19 or body of any municipality may include as part of the criteria for
20 eligibility to bid on the historic tavern, the bidder’s ability to
21 rehabilitate the property and to qualify as a licensee under Title 33
22 of the Revised Statutes.

23 c. The holder of a plenary retail consumption license issued
24 pursuant to this section may not sell or transfer the license to
25 another person for use in connection with another premises. A
26 license issued under the provisions of this act shall not be counted
27 in determining the number of licenses under section 2 of P.L.1947,
28 c.94 (C.33:1-12.14).

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill permits a municipality to issue a retail liquor license to
36 sell alcoholic beverages for on-premise consumption to the highest
37 qualified bidder to purchase an abandoned historic tavern. The bill
38 defines historic tavern as a building constructed prior to 1920,
39 which is included in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and
40 the National Register of Historic Places, and at which the sale and
41 service of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises was
42 the primary and principal business prior to 1920. The provisions of
43 the bill would apply to taverns that were in operation prior to the
44 ratification of the 18th Amendment to the United States
45 Constitution, which commenced an era in America known as
46 prohibition.

47 The bill provides that the holder of the retail license is prohibited
48 from transferring the license for use in connection with another

1 premises. A license issued under this bill is not subject to the
2 population limitations that restrict a municipality from issuing more
3 than one plenary retail consumption license for each 3,000 people
4 residing in that municipality.