- 1 HB328
- 2 217209-1
- 3 By Representative Isbell
- 4 RFD: Economic Development and Tourism
- 5 First Read: 09-FEB-22

1	217209-1:n:02/08/2022:LK/tgw LSA2022-510	
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8	SYNOPSIS:	Existing law makes no specific provisions
9		regarding the retail sale, wholesale, or tax on the
10		sale of single-serve beverages containing liquor no
11		larger than 16 ounces and which contain no more
12		than 10 percent alcohol by volume.
13		This bill would define these beverages as
14		"spirit infused refreshments" and would establish a
15		license to be issued by the Alcoholic Beverage
16		Control Board to retail beer licensees, which would
17		authorize the sale of spirit infused refreshments,
18		under certain conditions. This bill would establish
19		a fee for the license.
20		This bill would levy a tax on the retail
21		sale of spirit infused refreshments, and would
22		provide for the distribution of proceeds.
23		This bill would authorize the manufacture of
24		spirit infused refreshments by any person licensed
25		to manufacture beer, subject to the same privileges
26		and limitations placed upon the manufacture of

beer.

This bill would authorize the wholesale distribution of spirit infused refreshments by persons licensed to wholesale beer or wine.

This bill would provide for a tax to be levied by the board on the sale and wholesale of spirit infused refreshments, and would authorize a municipality to levy a tax on the retail sale of spirit infused refreshments in an amount equal to the rate of taxation on retail sale of beer.

11 A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

13 AN ACT

Relating to alcoholic beverages; to amend Section 28-3-1, as amended by Act 2021-188 and Act 2021-454, 2021 Regular Session, and Sections 28-3-53.2, 28-3A-9, 28-3A-21, and 28-7A-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to define spirit infused refreshments as a new category of alcoholic beverage; to prohibit the markup of spirit infused refreshments sold by the board; to levy a tax upon the retail sale of spirit infused refreshments and to provide for the distribution of proceeds; to authorize any manufacturer of beer to manufacture spirit infused refreshments, under certain conditions; to provide for the wholesale of spirit infused refreshments; to provide for the issuance of licenses for the retail sale of spirit infused refreshments; and to authorize the levy of taxes on the

- 1 wholesale and manufacture of spirit infused refreshments and
- 2 provide for the distribution of proceeds.
- BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 3
- Section 1. Section 28-3-1, as amended by Act 4
- 2021-188 and Act 2021-454, 2021 Regular Session, and Sections 5
- 28-3-53.2, 28-3A-9, 28-3A-21, and 28-7A-2, Code of Alabama 6
- 7 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- "\$28-3-1. 8
- "As used in this title, the following words shall 9 have the following meanings unless the context clearly
- indicates otherwise: 11
- "(1) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. Any alcoholic, spirituous, 12
- 13 vinous, fermented, or other alcoholic beverage, or combination
- 14 of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous,
- vinous, fermented, or otherwise alcoholic, and all drinks or 15
- drinkable liquids, preparations or mixtures intended for 16
- 17 beverage purposes, which contain one-half of one percent or
- 18 more of alcohol by volume, and shall include liquor, beer, and
- wine. 19

- 20 "(2) ASSOCIATION. A partnership, limited
- 21 partnership, or any form of unincorporated enterprise owned by
- 22 two or more persons.
- 23 "(3) BEER, or MALT OR BREWED BEVERAGES. Any beer,
- 24 lager beer, ale, porter, malt or brewed beverage, or similar
- 25 fermented beverage containing one-half of one percent or more
- 26 of alcohol by volume and not in excess of thirteen and
- nine-tenths percent alcohol by volume, brewed or produced from 27

- malt, wholly or in part, or from rice, grain of any kind,
 bran, glucose, sugar, or molasses. A beer or malt or brewed
 beverage may incorporate honey, fruit, fruit juice, fruit
 concentrate, herbs, spices, or other flavorings during the
 fermentation process. The term does not include any product
 defined as liquor, table wine, or wine.
 - "(4) BOARD. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.
 - "(5) BRANDY. All beverages that are an alcoholic distillate from the fermented juice, mash, or wine of fruit, or from the residue thereof, produced in such manner that the distillate possesses the taste, aroma, and characteristics generally attributed to the beverage, as bottled at not less than 80 degree proof.
 - "(6) CARTON. The package or container or containers in which alcoholic beverages are originally packaged for shipment to market by the manufacturer or its designated representatives or the importer.
 - "(7) CIDER. A fermented alcoholic beverage made from apple juice and containing not more than 8.5 percent alcohol by volume.
 - "(8) CLUB.

"a. Class I. A corporation or association organized or formed in good faith by authority of law and which must have at least 150 paid-up members. It must be the owner, lessee, or occupant of an establishment operated solely for the objects of a national, social, patriotic, political, or athletic nature or the like, but not for pecuniary gain, and

the property as well as the advantages of which, belong to all the members and which maintains an establishment provided with special space and accommodations where, in consideration of payment, food with or without lodging is habitually served.

The club shall hold regular meetings, continue its business through officers regularly elected, admit members by written application, investigation, and ballot, and charge and collect dues from elected members.

"b. Class II. A corporation or association organized or formed in good faith by authority of law and which must have at least 100 paid-up members. It must be the owner, lessee, or occupant of an establishment operated solely for the objects of a national, social, patriotic, political, or athletic nature or the like. The club shall hold regular meetings, continue its business through officers regularly elected, admit members by written application, investigation, and ballot, and charge and collect dues from elected members.

- "(9) CONTAINER. The single bottle, can, keg, bag, or other receptacle, not a carton, in which alcoholic beverages are originally packaged for the market by the manufacturer or importer and from which the alcoholic beverage is consumed by or dispensed to the public.
- "(10) CORPORATION. A corporation or joint stock association organized under the laws of this state, the United States, or any other state, territory or foreign country, or dependency.

"(11) DELIVERY. The transportation of alcoholic
beverages directly from a retail licensee of the board to an
individual, pursuant to Section 28-1-4 and Section 28-3A-13.1.

- "(12) DELIVERY SERVICE LICENSE. A license issued by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board in accordance with Section 28-3A-13.1 that authorizes the licensee, the licensee's employees, or independent contractors under a contractual or business arrangement with the licensee to transport and deliver alcoholic beverages.
- "(13) DRY COUNTY. Any county which by a majority of those voting voted in the negative in an election heretofore held under the applicable statutes at the time of the election or may hereafter vote in the negative in an election or special method referendum hereafter held in accordance with Chapter 2, or held in accordance with the provisions of any act hereafter enacted permitting such election.
- "(14) DRY MUNICIPALITY. Any municipality within a wet county which has, by its governing body or by a majority of those voting in a municipal election heretofore held in accordance with the provisions of Section 28-2-22, or in a municipal option election heretofore or hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Act 84-408, Acts of Alabama 1984, appearing as Chapter 2A, or any act hereafter enacted permitting municipal option election, voted to exclude the sale of alcoholic beverages within the corporate limits of the municipality.

- "(15) EMPLOYEE. An individual to whom an employer is required to issue a W-2 tax form under federal law.
- 3 "(16) GENERAL WELFARE PURPOSES. All of the
- 4 following:

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- 5 "a. The administration of public assistance as set 6 out in Sections 38-2-5 and 38-4-1.
- 7 "b. Services, including supplementation and 8 supplementary services under the federal Social Security Act, 9 to or on behalf of persons to whom public assistance may be 10 given under Sections 38-2-5 and 38-4-1.
- "c. Service to and on behalf of dependent, neglected, or delinquent children.
- "d. Investigative and referral services to and onbehalf of needy persons.
 - "(17) HEARING COMMISSION. A body appointed by the board to hear and decide all contested license applications and all disciplinary charges against any licensee for violation of this title or the rules of the board.
 - "(18) HOTEL. A building or buildings held out to the public for housing accommodations of travelers or transients, and shall include motel, but shall not include a rooming house or boarding house.
 - "(19) IMPORTER. Any person, association, or corporation engaged in importing alcoholic beverages, liquor, wine, or beer, manufactured outside of the United States of America into this state or for sale or distribution in this state, or to the board or to a licensee of the board.

"(20) INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. An individual to whom
an employer is required to issue a 1099 tax form under federal
law.

- "(21) KEG. A pressurized factory sealed container with a capacity equal to or greater than five U.S. gallons, from which beer is withdrawn by means of an external tap.
- "(22) LIQUOR. Any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented, or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous, fermented, vinous, or otherwise alcoholic, and all drinks or drinkable liquids, preparations, or mixtures intended for beverage purposes, which contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, except beer and table wine.
- "(23) LIQUOR STORE. A liquor store operated by the board, where alcoholic beverages other than beer are authorized to be sold in unopened containers.
- "(24) MANUFACTURER. Any person, association, or corporation engaged in the producing, bottling, manufacturing, distilling, rectifying, or compounding of alcoholic beverages, liquor, beer, or wine in this state or for sale or distribution in this state or to the board or to a licensee of the board.
- "(25) MEAD. An alcoholic beverage produced by fermenting a solution of honey and water with grain mash and containing not more than 18 percent alcohol by volume.
- "(26) MEAL. A diversified selection of food some of which is not susceptible of being consumed in the absence of

at least some articles of tableware and which cannot be conveniently consumed while one is standing or walking about.

- "(27) MINOR. Any person under 21 years of age; provided, however, in the event Section 28-1-5, shall be repealed or otherwise shall be no longer in effect, thereafter the provisions of Section 26-1-1, shall govern.
 - "(28) MUNICIPALITY. Any incorporated city or town of this state to include its police jurisdiction.
 - "(29) PERSON. Every natural person, association, or corporation. Whenever used in a clause prescribing or imposing a fine or imprisonment, or both, such term as applied to association shall mean the partners or members thereof and as applied to corporation shall mean the officers thereof, except as to incorporated clubs the term person shall mean such individual or individuals who, under the bylaws of such clubs, shall have jurisdiction over the possession and sale of liquor therein.
 - "(30) POPULATION. The population according to the last preceding or any subsequent decennial census of the United States, except where a municipality is incorporated subsequent to the last census, in which event, its population until the next decennial census shall be the population of the municipality as determined by the judge of probate of the county as the official population on the date of its incorporation.
 - "(31) RESTAURANT. A reputable place licensed as a restaurant, operated by a responsible person of good

reputation and habitually and principally used for the purpose of preparing and serving meals for the public to consume on the premises.

- "(32) RETAILER. Any person licensed by the board to engage in the retail sale of any alcoholic beverages to the consumer.
- "(33) SALE or SELL. Any transfer of liquor, wine or beer for a consideration, and any gift in connection with, or as a part of, a transfer of property other than liquor, wine, or beer for a consideration.
- "(34) SELLING PRICE. The total marked-up price of spirituous or vinous liquors sold by the board, exclusive of taxes levied thereon.
- "(35) SPIRIT INFUSED REFRESHMENT. A single-serve beverage containing liquor, packaged in a can or a container approved by the board no larger than 16 ounces or 480 milliliters, and which contains no more than 10 percent alcohol by volume. The term does not include any beverage containing liquor over 16 ounces or 480 milliliters in size, or of more than 10 percent alcohol by volume.

"(35) (36) TABLE WINE. Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, any wine containing not more than 24 percent alcohol by volume. Table wine does not include any wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent alcohol by volume that is made with herbs or flavors, except vermouth, or is an imitation or other than standard wine. Table wine is not liquor, spirituous, or vinous.

"(36) (37) UNOPENED CONTAINER. A container containing alcoholic beverages, which has not been opened or unsealed subsequent to filling and sealing by the manufacturer or importer.

"(37) (38) WET COUNTY. Any county which by a majority of those voting voted in the affirmative in an election heretofore held in accordance with the statutes applicable at the time of the election or may hereafter vote in the affirmative in an election or special method referendum held in accordance with Chapter 2, or other statutes applicable at the time of the election.

"(38) (39) WET MUNICIPALITY. Any municipality in a dry county which by a majority of those voting voted in the affirmative in a municipal option election heretofore or hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Act 84-408, Acts of Alabama 1984, appearing as Chapter 2A of this title, as amended, or any act hereafter enacted permitting municipal option election, or any municipality which became wet by vote of the governing body or by the voters of the municipality heretofore or hereafter held under the special method referendum provisions of Section 28-2-22, or as hereafter provided, where the county has become dry subsequent to the elected wet status of the municipality.

"(39) (40) WHOLESALER. Any person licensed by the board to engage in the sale and distribution of table wine and, beer, or spirit infused refreshments, or either any of them, within this state, at wholesale only, to be sold by

export or to retail licensees or other wholesale licensees or others within this state lawfully authorized to sell table wine and, beer , or spirit infused refreshments, or either any of them, for the purpose of resale only.

"(40) (41) WINE. All beverages made from the fermentation of fruits, berries, or grapes, with or without added spirits, and produced in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States, containing not more than 24 percent alcohol by volume, and shall include all sparkling wines, carbonated wines, special natural wines, rectified wines, vermouths, vinous beverages, vinous liquors, and like products, including restored or unrestored pure condensed juice.

"\$28-3-53.2.

- "(a) The word board, wherever used in this section, shall mean the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board provided for in Chapter 3, Title 28. The term mark up, wherever used in this section shall mean the percentage amount added to cost plus freight on spirituous or vinous liquors sold by the board, exclusive of taxes heretofore levied with respect thereto.
- "(b) The total amount of the additional mark up on cost of merchandise, levied by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board subsequent to June 30, 1983, shall be designated to the credit of the General Fund of the state.
- "(c) The board shall be prohibited from increasing either of the following:

"(1) Increasing the mark up on wholesale case lot sales of liquor above 16.99 percent of the cost plus freight subsequent to December 1, 2004.

"(2) Adding any mark up to the cost of a spirit infused refreshment sold by the board.

"\$28-3A-9.

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"Upon applicant's compliance with the provisions of this chapter and the regulations made thereunder, the board shall issue to applicant a wholesale license which shall authorize the licensee to import and receive shipments of beer and, table wine, and spirit infused refreshments from outside the state from licensed manufacturers,; to purchase beer and, table wine, and spirit infused refreshments from licensed manufacturers or other licensed wholesalers within the state; and to sell at wholesale or distribute beer $\frac{and}{L}$ table wine and spirit infused refreshments to all licensees or others within this state lawfully authorized to sell beer and, wine, and spirit infused refreshments within said the state, and to export beer and, wine, and spirit infused refreshments from the state. Sales to all authorized persons shall be in original packages or containers as prepared for the market by the manufacturer or bottler or in containers approved by the board. No person shall sell at wholesale or distribute beer or, table wine, or spirit infused refreshments within this state or to licensees of the board unless such that person shall be issued a wholesale license by the board.

"§28-3A-21.

- "(a) The following annual license fees are levied and prescribed for licenses issued and renewed by the board pursuant to the authority contained in this chapter:
- 4 "(1) Manufacturer license, license fee of five bundred dollars (\$500).
- "(2) Importer license, license fee of five hundred dollars (\$500).
- 8 "(3) Liquor wholesale license, license fee of five 9 hundred dollars (\$500).
- "(4) Wholesaler license, beer license fee of five
 hundred fifty dollars (\$550) or wine license fee of five
 hundred fifty dollars (\$550); license fee for beer and wine of
 seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750); plus two hundred dollars
 (\$200) for each warehouse in addition to the principal
 warehouse.
- "(5) Warehouse license, license fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).
 - "(6) Lounge retail liquor license, license fee of three hundred dollars (\$300).

- 20 "(7) Restaurant retail liquor license, license fee 21 of three hundred dollars (\$300).
- "(8) Club liquor license, Class I license fee of three hundred dollars (\$300), Class II license fee of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750).
- 25 "(9) Retail table wine license for off-premises 26 consumption, license fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

1	"(10) Retail table wine license for on-premises and	
2	off-premises consumption, license fee of one hundred fifty	
3	dollars (\$150).	
4	"(11) Retail beer license for on-premises and	
5	off-premises consumption, license fee of one hundred fifty	
6	dollars (\$150).	
7	"(12) Retail beer license for off-premises	
8	consumption, license fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).	
9	"(13) Retail common carrier liquor license, license	
10	fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for each railroad,	
11	airline, bus line, ship line, vessel or other common carrier	
12	entity with a vehicle passenger capacity of at least 10	
13	people.	
14	"(14) Special retail license, license fee of one	
15	hundred dollars (\$100) for 30 days or less; license fee of two	
16	hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for more than 30 days.	
17	"(15) Special events retail license, license fee of	
18	one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).	
19	"(16) Limited spirit expanded license, license fee	
20	of five hundred dollars (\$500).	
21	"(b) The license fees levied and fixed by this	
22	section shall be paid before the license is issued or renewed.	
23	"(c) In addition to the foregoing filing fee and	
24	license taxes or fees, any county or municipality in which the	

sale of alcoholic beverages is permitted shall be authorized

to fix and levy privileges or license taxes on any of the

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foregoing licenses located or operated therein, conditioned on a permit or license being issued by the board.

"(d) No county or municipality shall have any authority to levy a license or tax of any nature on any liquor store.

"\$28-7A-2.

"Any local governing body may, prior to October 1, 1988 or at any time thereafter, elect to authorize the board to audit and collect any and all taxes levied pursuant to Sections 28-3-190 or subsection (b) of Section 5 of this amendatory act and 28-7-16, upon the sale of any beer or spirit infused refreshments or upon the sale of table wine. Any local governing body may elect to retain, or at any time after October 1, 1988, by an appropriate resolution or ordinance duly adopted and spread upon its minutes, elect to retain or reclaim the power and authority granted to it by Sections 28-3-190, subsection (b) of Section 5 of this amendatory act, and 28-7-16, to audit and collect any such taxes, whereupon said taxes shall be paid to and collected by the local governing body as provided in said sections."

Section 2. Any person licensed by the board to manufacture beer pursuant to Section 28-3A-6, Code of Alabama 1975, may also manufacture spirit infused refreshments, subject to the same privileges and limitations set forth in that section on beer. Any spirit infused refreshments manufactured by a person licensed to manufacture beer shall be accounted in the same manner as required by subsections (d),

(e), and (f) of Section 28-3A-6, Code of Alabama 1975, and shall be counted as beer towards the limits of Section 28-3A-6(h)(2)-(3), Code of Alabama 1975.

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- Section 3. (a) Upon receipt of the license fee required by Section 28-3A-21, Code of Alabama 1975, the board shall issue a limited spirit expanded license to a licensee who holds and possesses either of the following:
- (1) A valid retail beer license for on-premises and off-premises consumption.
 - (2) A valid retail beer license for off-premises consumption.
 - (b) (1) A license issued under subdivision (a) (1) shall authorize the licensee to purchase spirit infused refreshments from the board or from a licensed wholesaler and to sell those products at retail for on-premises consumption in a room or rooms or place on the licensed premises at all times accessible to the use and accommodation of the general public, and for off-premises consumption, where that use of the proposed location is not, at the time of the original application, prohibited by a valid zoning ordinance or other ordinance in the valid exercise of police power by the governing body of the municipality or county in which the outlet is located.
 - (2) A license issued under subdivision (a)(2) shall authorize the licensee to purchase spirit infused refreshments from the board or from a licensed wholesaler and to sell those products at retail for off-premises consumption where that use

1 of the proposed location is not, at the time of the original 2 application, prohibited by a valid zoning ordinance or other ordinance in the valid exercise of police power by the 3 governing body of the municipality or county in which the 4 outlet is located.

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(c) The board shall retain any licensing fees collected pursuant to this section for use in the performance of the duties of the board under law.

Section 4. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of Title 28, Code of Alabama 1975, to the contrary, a tax is imposed upon the privilege of engaging in the business of manufacturing or wholesaling spirit infused refreshments. The tax levied shall be measured and graduated in accordance with the volume of sales by the licensee of spirit infused refreshments, at an amount equal to 21 cents (\$0.21) per each 12 fluid ounces or fractional part thereof.

- (b) The tax imposed by this section shall be in addition to all other taxes imposed by this state and in addition to the tax imposed by any municipality.
- (c) The board shall collect the taxes due pursuant to this section and shall distribute the proceeds as follows:
- (1) Seventeen cents (\$0.17) per 12 fluid ounces or fractional part thereof shall be deposited into the State General Fund.
- (2) Four cents (\$0.04) per 12 fluid ounces shall be retained by the board, for use in the performance of the duties of the board under law.

1 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of Title 28, Code 2 of Alabama 1975, to the contrary, the board shall not apply any mark up, as defined by Section 28-3-53.2, Code of Alabama 3 1975, to the cost of a spirit infused refreshment sold by the 4 board.

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- Section 5. (a) (1) There is hereby levied a privilege 6 7 or excise tax on the retail sale of spirit infused refreshments, equal to the amount levied on the sale of malt 8 9 or brewed beverages in subsection (a) of Section 28-3-184, 10 Code of Alabama 1975. The tax shall be collected in the same manner as specified in subsection (b) of Section 28-3-184, 11 12 Code of Alabama 1975, and the proceeds shall be distributed as 13 provided in subsection (c) of Section 28-3-184, Code of Alabama 1975. 14
 - (2) The tax levied in subdivision (1) shall not be levied on the sale of spirit infused refreshments by manufacturers or wholesalers.
 - (b) (1) In addition to the tax levied under subsection (a), there is hereby levied a privilege or excise tax on the retail sale of spirit infused refreshments, equal to the amount levied on the sale of beer in subsection (a) of Section 28-3-190, Code of Alabama 1975. The tax shall be collected in the same manner as specified in subsection (b) of Section 28-3-190, Code of Alabama 1975, and the proceeds shall be distributed as provided in subsection (c) of Section 28-3-190, Code of Alabama 1975.

(2) Subsections (d) and (e) of Section 28-3-190, 1 Code of Alabama 1975, shall apply to the tax levied on the 2 retail sale of spirit infused refreshments by subdivision (1). 3 To effect that purpose, "beer" as used in subdivision (e) of 4 Section 28-3-190, Code of Alabama 1975, shall include spirit 5 infused refreshments. 6 (3) The tax levied in subdivision (1) shall not be 7 levied on the sale of spirit infused refreshments by 8 manufacturers or wholesalers. 9 10 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the 11 first day of the third month following its passage and

approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.