

By: Senator(s) Cuevas

To: Finance

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2780

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 67-1-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE STATE TAX COMMISSION TO ISSUE A PERMIT TO AUTHORIZE  
3 PERSONS TO PURCHASE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
4 MECHANICALLY ETCHING DESIGNS ON THE BOTTLES; TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE  
5 OF SUCH BOTTLES AT RETAIL; TO AMEND SECTION 27-71-5, MISSISSIPPI  
6 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE A PRIVILEGE LICENSE TAX FOR A  
7 MECHANICALLY ETCHED BOTTLE RETAILERS PERMIT; TO AMEND SECTIONS  
8 67-1-41 AND 67-1-43, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED  
9 PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 SECTION 1. Section 67-1-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 67-1-51. (1) Permits which may be issued by the commission  
14 shall be as follows:

15 (a) Manufacturer's permit. A manufacturer's permit  
16 shall permit the manufacture, importation in bulk, bottling and  
17 storage of alcoholic liquor and its distribution and sale to  
18 manufacturers holding permits under this chapter in this state and  
19 to persons outside the state who are authorized by law to purchase  
20 the same, and to sell exclusively to the commission.

21 Manufacturer's permits shall be of the following classes:

22 Class 1. Distiller's and/or rectifier's permit, which  
23 shall authorize the holder thereof to operate a distillery for the  
24 production of distilled spirits by distillation or redistillation  
25 and/or to operate a rectifying plant for the purifying, refining,  
26 mixing, blending, flavoring or reducing in proof of distilled  
27 spirits and alcohol.

28 Class 2. Wine manufacturer's permit, which shall  
29 authorize the holder thereof to manufacture, import in bulk,  
30 bottle and store wine or vinous liquor.



31           Class 3. Native wine producer's permit, which shall  
32 authorize the holder thereof to produce, bottle, store and sell  
33 native wines.

34           (b) Package retailer's permit. Except as otherwise  
35 provided in this paragraph, a package retailer's permit shall  
36 authorize the holder thereof to operate a store exclusively for  
37 the sale at retail in original sealed and unopened packages of  
38 alcoholic beverages, including native wines, not to be consumed on  
39 the premises where sold. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold by  
40 any retailer in any package or container containing less than  
41 fifty (50) milliliters by liquid measure. In addition to the sale  
42 at retail of packages of alcoholic beverages, the holder of a  
43 package retailer's permit is authorized to sell at retail  
44 corkscrews, wine glasses, soft drinks, ice, juices, mixers and  
45 other beverages commonly used to mix with alcoholic beverages.  
46 Nonalcoholic beverages sold by the holder of a package retailer's  
47 permit shall not be consumed on the premises where sold.

48           (c) On-premises retailer's permit. An on-premises  
49 retailer's permit shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages,  
50 including native wines, for consumption on the licensed premises  
51 only. Such a permit shall issue only to qualified hotels,  
52 restaurants and clubs, and to common carriers with adequate  
53 facilities for serving passengers. In resort areas, whether  
54 inside or outside of a municipality, the commission may, in its  
55 discretion, issue on-premises retailer's permits to such  
56 establishments as it deems proper. An on-premises retailer's  
57 permit when issued to a common carrier shall authorize the sale  
58 and serving of alcoholic beverages aboard any licensed vehicle  
59 while moving through any county of the state; however, the sale of  
60 such alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted while such vehicle  
61 is stopped in a county that has not legalized such sales.

62           (d) Solicitor's permit. A solicitor's permit shall  
63 authorize the holder thereof to act as salesman for a manufacturer



64 or wholesaler holding a proper permit, to solicit on behalf of his  
65 employer orders for alcoholic beverages, and to otherwise promote  
66 his employer's products in a legitimate manner. Such a permit  
67 shall authorize the representation of and employment by one (1)  
68 principal only. However, the permittee may also, in the  
69 discretion of the commission, be issued additional permits to  
70 represent other principals. No such permittee shall buy or sell  
71 alcoholic beverages for his own account, and no such beverage  
72 shall be brought into this state in pursuance of the exercise of  
73 such permit otherwise than through a permit issued to a wholesaler  
74 or manufacturer in the state.

75 (e) Native wine retailer's permit. A native wine  
76 retailer's permit shall be issued only to a holder of a Class 3  
77 manufacturer's permit, and shall authorize the holder thereof to  
78 make retail sales of native wines to consumers for on-premises  
79 consumption or to consumers in originally sealed and unopened  
80 containers at an establishment located on the premises of or in  
81 the immediate vicinity of a native winery.

82 (f) Temporary retailer's permit. A temporary  
83 retailer's permit shall permit the purchase and resale of  
84 alcoholic beverages, including native wines, during legal hours on  
85 the premises described in the temporary permit only.

86 Temporary retailer's permits shall be of the following  
87 classes:

88 Class 1. A temporary one-day permit may be issued to  
89 bona fide nonprofit civic or charitable organizations authorizing  
90 the sale of alcoholic beverages, including native wine, for  
91 consumption on the premises described in the temporary permit  
92 only. Class 1 permits may be issued only to applicants  
93 demonstrating to the commission, by affidavit submitted ten (10)  
94 days prior to the proposed date or such other time as the  
95 commission may determine, that they meet the qualifications of  
96 Sections 67-1-11, 67-1-37, 67-1-51(2) and (3), 67-1-55, 67-1-57



97 (excluding paragraph (e)) and 67-1-59. Class 1 permittees shall  
98 obtain all alcoholic beverages from package retailers located in  
99 the county in which the temporary permit is issued. Alcoholic  
100 beverages remaining in stock upon expiration of the temporary  
101 permit may be returned by the permittee to the package retailer  
102 for a refund of the purchase price upon consent of the package  
103 retailer or may be kept by the permittee exclusively for personal  
104 use and consumption, subject to all laws pertaining to the illegal  
105 sale and possession of alcoholic beverages. The commission,  
106 following review of the affidavit and the requirements of the  
107 applicable statutes and regulations, may issue the permit.

108 Class 2. A temporary permit, not to exceed seventy (70)  
109 days, may be issued to prospective permittees seeking to transfer  
110 a permit authorized in either paragraph (b) or (c) of this  
111 section. A Class 2 permit may be issued only to applicants  
112 demonstrating to the commission, by affidavit, that they meet the  
113 qualifications of Sections 67-1-5(1), (m), (n), (o), (p) or (q),  
114 67-1-37, 67-1-51(2) and (3), 67-1-55, 67-1-57 and 67-1-59. The  
115 commission, following a preliminary review of the affidavit and  
116 the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations, may  
117 issue the permit.

118 Class 2 temporary permittees must purchase their  
119 alcoholic beverages directly from the commission or, with approval  
120 of the commission, purchase the remaining stock of the previous  
121 permittee. If the proposed applicant of a Class 1 or Class 2  
122 temporary permit falsifies information contained in the  
123 application or affidavit, the applicant shall never again be  
124 eligible for a retail alcohol beverage permit and shall be subject  
125 to prosecution for perjury.

126 (g) Caterer's permit. A caterer's permit shall permit  
127 the purchase of alcoholic beverages by a person engaging in  
128 business as a caterer and the resale of alcoholic beverages by  
129 such person in conjunction with such catering business. No person



130 shall qualify as a caterer unless forty percent (40%) or more of  
131 the revenue derived from such catering business shall be from the  
132 serving of prepared food and not from the sale of alcoholic  
133 beverages and unless such person has obtained a permit for such  
134 business from the Department of Health. A caterer's permit shall  
135 not authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on the premises of  
136 the person engaging in business as a caterer; however, the holder  
137 of an on-premises retailer's permit may hold a caterer's permit.  
138 All sales of alcoholic beverages by holders of a caterer's permit  
139 shall be made at the location being catered by the caterer, and  
140 such sales may be made only for consumption at the catered  
141 location. Such sales shall be made pursuant to any other  
142 conditions and restrictions which apply to sales made by  
143 on-premises retail permittees. The holder of a caterer's permit  
144 or his employees shall remain at the catered location as long as  
145 alcoholic beverages are being sold pursuant to the permit issued  
146 under this paragraph (g), and the permittee and employees at such  
147 location shall each have personal identification cards issued by  
148 the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the commission. No  
149 unsold alcoholic beverages may be left at the catered location by  
150 the permittee upon the conclusion of his business at that  
151 location. Appropriate law enforcement officers and Alcoholic  
152 Beverage Control Division personnel may enter a catered location  
153 on private property in order to enforce laws governing the sale or  
154 serving of alcoholic beverages.

155 (h) Research Permit. A research permit shall authorize  
156 the holder thereof to operate a research facility for the  
157 professional research of alcoholic beverages. Such permit shall  
158 authorize the holder of the permit to import and purchase limited  
159 amounts of alcoholic beverages from the commission or from  
160 importers, wineries and distillers of alcoholic beverages for  
161 professional research.



162 (i) Alcohol processing permit. An alcohol processing  
163 permit shall authorize the holder thereof to purchase, transport  
164 and possess alcoholic beverages for the exclusive use in cooking,  
165 processing or manufacturing products which contain alcoholic  
166 beverages as an integral ingredient. An alcohol processing permit  
167 shall not authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on the  
168 premises of the person engaging in the business of cooking,  
169 processing or manufacturing products which contain alcoholic  
170 beverages. The amounts of alcoholic beverages allowed under an  
171 alcohol processing permit shall be set by the commission.

172 (j) Mechanically etched bottle retailer permit. A  
173 mechanically etched bottle retailer permit shall authorize the  
174 holder thereof to purchase alcoholic beverages from any licensed  
175 wholesaler or distributor within Mississippi for the purpose of  
176 mechanically etching designs on the bottles and to sell at retail  
177 the finished product. The permittee shall be required to comply  
178 with all other rules and regulations of the commission.

179 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this  
180 section, retail permittees may hold more than one (1) retail  
181 permit, at the discretion of the commission.

182 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no  
183 authority shall be granted to any person to manufacture, sell or  
184 store for sale any intoxicating liquor as specified in this  
185 chapter within four hundred (400) feet of any church, school,  
186 kindergarten or funeral home. However, within an area zoned  
187 commercial or business, such minimum distance shall be not less  
188 than one hundred (100) feet.

189 A church or funeral home may waive the distance restrictions  
190 imposed in this subsection in favor of allowing issuance by the  
191 commission of a permit, pursuant to subsection (1) of this  
192 section, to authorize activity relating to the manufacturing, sale  
193 or storage of alcoholic beverages which would otherwise be  
194 prohibited under the minimum distance criterion. Such waiver



195 shall be in written form from the owner, the governing body, or  
196 the appropriate officer of the church or funeral home having the  
197 authority to execute such a waiver, and the waiver shall be filed  
198 with and verified by the commission before becoming effective.

199 The distance restrictions imposed in this subsection shall  
200 not apply to the sale or storage of alcoholic beverages at a bed  
201 and breakfast inn listed in the National Register of Historic  
202 Places.

203 (4) No person, either individually or as a member of a firm,  
204 partnership or association, or as a stockholder, officer or  
205 director in a corporation, shall own or control any interest in  
206 more than one (1) package retailer's permit, nor shall such  
207 person's spouse, if living in the same household of such person,  
208 any relative of such person, if living in the same household of  
209 such person, or any other person living in the same household with  
210 such person own any interest in any other package retailer's  
211 permit.

212 SECTION 2. Section 27-71-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
213 amended as follows:

214 27-71-5. (1) Upon each person approved for a permit under  
215 the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law and  
216 amendments thereto, there is levied and imposed for each location  
217 for the privilege of engaging and continuing in this state in the  
218 business authorized by such permit, an annual privilege license  
219 tax in the amount provided in the following schedule:

- 220 (a) Manufacturer's permit, Class 1, distiller's and/or  
221 rectifier's..... \$4,500.00
- 222 (b) Manufacturer's permit, Class 2, wine manufacturer  
223 ..... \$1,800.00
- 224 (c) Manufacturer's permit, Class 3, native wine  
225 manufacturer per 10,000 gallons or part thereof produced... \$10.00
- 226 (d) Native wine retailer's permit..... \$50.00
- 227 (e) Package retailer's permit, each..... \$900.00



228 (f) On-premises retailer's permit, except for clubs and  
 229 common carriers, each..... \$450.00  
 230 On purchases exceeding \$5,000.00 and for each additional  
 231 \$5,000.00, or fraction thereof..... \$225.00  
 232 (g) On-premises retailer's permit for wine of more than  
 233 four percent (4%) alcohol by volume, but not more than twenty-one  
 234 percent (21%) alcohol by volume (each)..... \$225.00  
 235 On purchases exceeding \$5,000.00 and for each additional  
 236 \$5,000.00, or fraction thereof..... \$225.00  
 237 (h) On-premises retailer's permit for clubs.... \$225.00  
 238 On purchases exceeding \$5,000.00 and for each additional  
 239 \$5,000.00, or fraction thereof..... \$225.00  
 240 (i) On-premises retailer's permit for common carriers,  
 241 per car, plane, or other vehicle..... \$120.00  
 242 (j) Solicitor's permit, regardless of any other  
 243 provision of law, solicitor's permits shall be issued only in the  
 244 discretion of the commission..... \$100.00  
 245 (k) Filing fee for each application except for an  
 246 employee identification card..... \$25.00  
 247 (l) Temporary permit, Class 1, each..... \$10.00  
 248 (m) Temporary permit, Class 2, each..... \$50.00  
 249 On-premises purchases exceeding \$5,000.00 and for each  
 250 additional \$5,000.00, or fraction thereof..... \$225.00  
 251 (n) (i) Caterer's permit..... \$600.00  
 252 On purchases exceeding \$5,000.00 and for each additional  
 253 \$5,000.00, or fraction thereof..... \$250.00  
 254 (ii) Caterer's permit for holders of on-premises  
 255 retailer's permit..... \$150.00  
 256 On purchases exceeding \$5,000.00 and for each additional  
 257 \$5,000.00, or fraction thereof..... \$250.00  
 258 (o) Research permit..... \$100.00  
 259 (p) Filing fee for each application for an employee  
 260 identification card..... \$5.00





261                   (q) Mechanically etched bottle retailer  
262 permit.....\$900.00

263           In addition to the filing fee imposed by item (k) of this  
264 subsection, a fee to be determined by the State Tax Commission may  
265 be charged to defray costs incurred to process applications. Such  
266 additional fees shall be paid into the State Treasury to the  
267 credit of a special fund account, which is hereby created, and  
268 expenditures therefrom shall be made only to defray the costs  
269 incurred by the State Tax Commission in processing alcoholic  
270 beverage applications. Any unencumbered balance remaining in the  
271 special fund account on June 30 of any fiscal year shall lapse  
272 into the State General Fund.

273           All privilege taxes herein imposed shall be paid in advance  
274 of doing business. The additional privilege tax imposed for an  
275 on-premises retailer's permit based upon purchases shall be due  
276 and payable on demand.

277           Any person who has paid the additional privilege license tax  
278 imposed by item (f), (g), (h), (m) or (n) of this subsection, and  
279 whose permit is renewed, may add any unused fraction of Five  
280 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) purchases to the first Five Thousand  
281 Dollars (\$5,000.00) purchases authorized by the renewal permit,  
282 and no additional license tax will be required until purchases  
283 exceed the sum of the two (2) figures.

284           (2) There is imposed and shall be collected from each  
285 permittee, except a common carrier, solicitor, holder of an  
286 employee identification card or a temporary permittee, by the  
287 commission, an additional license tax equal to the amounts imposed  
288 under subsection (1) of this section for the privilege of doing  
289 business within any municipality or county in which the licensee  
290 is located. If the licensee is located within a municipality, the  
291 commission shall pay the amount of additional license tax to the  
292 municipality, and if outside a municipality the commission shall  
293 pay the additional license tax to the county in which the licensee



294 is located. Payments by the commission to the respective local  
295 government subdivisions shall be made once each month for any  
296 collections during the preceding month.

297 (3) When an application for any permit, other than for  
298 renewal of a permit, has been rejected by the commission, such  
299 decision shall be final. Appeal may be made in the manner  
300 provided by Section 67-1-39. Another application from an  
301 applicant who has been denied a permit shall not be reconsidered  
302 within a twelve-month period.

303 (4) The number of permits issued by the commission shall not  
304 be restricted or limited on a population basis; however, the  
305 foregoing limitation shall not be construed to preclude the right  
306 of the commission to refuse to issue a permit because of the  
307 undesirability of the proposed location.

308 (5) If any person shall engage or continue in any business  
309 which is taxable hereunder without having paid the tax as provided  
310 herein, such person shall be liable for the full amount of such  
311 tax plus a penalty thereon equal to the amount thereof, and, in  
312 addition, shall be punished by a fine of not more than One  
313 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county  
314 jail for a term of not more than six (6) months, or by both such  
315 fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

316 (6) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume alcoholic  
317 beverages on the premises of any hotel restaurant, restaurant,  
318 club or the interior of any public place defined in Chapter 1,  
319 Title 67, Mississippi Code of 1972, when the owner or manager  
320 thereof displays in several conspicuous places inside said  
321 establishment and at the entrances thereto a sign containing the  
322 following language: NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED.

323 SECTION 3. Section 67-1-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
324 amended as follows:

325 67-1-41. (1) The State Tax Commission is hereby created a  
326 wholesale distributor and seller of alcoholic beverages, not



327 including malt liquors, within the State of Mississippi. It is  
328 granted the sole right to import and sell such intoxicating  
329 liquors at wholesale within the state, and no person who is  
330 granted the right to sell, distribute or receive such liquors at  
331 retail shall purchase any such intoxicating liquors from any  
332 source other than the commission except as authorized in  
333 subsections (4) and (9), provided that retailers and consumers may  
334 purchase native wines directly from the producer and may purchase  
335 mechanically etched bottles containing alcoholic beverages  
336 directly from the holder of a mechanically etched bottle retailer  
337 permit. The commission may establish warehouses, purchase  
338 intoxicating liquors in such quantities and from such sources as  
339 it may deem desirable and sell the same to authorized permittees  
340 within the state including, at the discretion of the commission,  
341 any retail distributors operating within any military post or  
342 qualified resort areas within the boundaries of the state, keeping  
343 a correct and accurate record of all such transactions and  
344 exercising such control over the distribution of alcoholic  
345 beverages as seem right and proper in keeping with the provisions  
346 or purposes of this chapter.

347 The commission is empowered to borrow such working capital as  
348 may be required, not to exceed the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand  
349 Dollars (\$900,000.00). Such loan shall be repaid from the  
350 earnings of the wholesale liquor business.

351 The commission is hereby authorized to use and to promulgate  
352 rules for the affixing of identification stamps to each container  
353 of alcoholic liquor.

354 (2) No person for the purpose of sale shall manufacture,  
355 distill, brew, sell, possess, export, transport, distribute,  
356 warehouse, store, solicit, take orders for, bottle, rectify,  
357 blend, treat, mix or process any alcoholic beverage except in  
358 accordance with authority granted under this chapter, or as  
359 otherwise provided by law for native wines.



360 (3) No alcoholic beverage intended for sale or resale shall  
361 be imported, shipped or brought into this state for delivery to  
362 any person other than as provided in this chapter, or as otherwise  
363 provided by law for native wines.

364 (4) The commission may promulgate rules and regulations  
365 which authorize on-premises retailers to purchase limited amounts  
366 of alcoholic beverages from package retailers and for package  
367 retailers to purchase limited amounts of alcoholic beverages from  
368 other package retailers. The commission shall develop and provide  
369 forms to be completed by the on-premises retailers and the package  
370 retailers verifying the transaction. The completed forms shall be  
371 forwarded to the commission within a period of time prescribed by  
372 the commission.

373 (5) The commission may promulgate rules which authorize the  
374 holder of a package retailer's permit to permit individual retail  
375 purchasers of packages of alcoholic beverages to return, for  
376 exchange, credit or refund, limited amounts of original sealed and  
377 unopened packages of alcoholic beverages purchased by such  
378 individual from the package retailer.

379 (6) The commission shall maintain all forms to be completed  
380 by applicants necessary for licensure by the commission at all  
381 district offices of the commission.

382 (7) The commission may promulgate rules which authorize the  
383 manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or wine to import, transport  
384 and furnish or give a sample of alcoholic beverages or wines to  
385 the holders of package retailer's permits, on-premises retailer's  
386 permits, native wine retailer's permits and temporary retailer's  
387 permits who have not previously purchased the brand of that  
388 manufacturer from the commission. For each holder of the  
389 designated permits, the manufacturer may furnish not more than  
390 five hundred (500) milliliters of any brand of alcoholic beverage  
391 and not more than three (3) liters of any brand of wine.



392           (8) The commission may promulgate rules disallowing open  
393 product sampling of alcoholic beverages or wines by the holders of  
394 package retailer's permits and permitting open product sampling of  
395 alcoholic beverages by the holders of on-premises retailer's  
396 permits. Permitted sample products shall be plainly identified  
397 "sample" and the actual sampling must occur in the presence of the  
398 manufacturer's representatives during the legal operating hours of  
399 on-premises retailers.

400           (9) The commission may promulgate rules and regulations that  
401 authorize the holder of a research permit to import and purchase  
402 limited amounts of alcoholic beverages from importers, wineries  
403 and distillers of alcoholic beverages or from the commission. The  
404 commission shall develop and provide forms to be completed by the  
405 research permittee verifying each transaction. The completed  
406 forms shall be forwarded to the commission within a period of time  
407 prescribed by the commission. The records and inventory of  
408 alcoholic beverages shall be open to inspection at any time by the  
409 Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division or any duly  
410 authorized agent.

411           SECTION 4. Section 67-1-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
412 amended as follows:

413           67-1-43. Any authorized retail distributor who shall  
414 purchase or receive intoxicating liquor from any source except  
415 from the commission or the holder of a mechanically etched bottle  
416 retailer permit, unless authorized by rules and regulations of the  
417 commission promulgated under subsection (4) of Section 67-1-41,  
418 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall  
419 be punished by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
420 (\$500.00), nor more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), to  
421 which may be added imprisonment in the county jail for not more  
422 than six (6) months. Any authorization of such person to sell  
423 intoxicating beverages may be revoked as provided by law.



424           This section shall not apply to any authorized retail  
425 distributor who shall purchase native wines directly from the  
426 producer.

427           SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
428 and after July 1, 2001.

