

By: Senator(s) Robertson

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2451

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 67-1-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 INCREASE TO 10% THE AMOUNT OF STOCK THAT AN OFFICER OF A  
 3 CORPORATION APPLYING FOR AN ON-PREMISES RETAILER'S PERMIT MUST OWN  
 4 IN ORDER FOR THE STATE TAX COMMISSION TO REQUIRE PERSONAL  
 5 FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM SUCH OFFICER; TO AMEND SECTIONS  
 6 67-1-25, 67-1-51, 67-1-55, 67-1-57 AND 67-1-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
 7 OF 1972, TO INCLUDE BUSINESS ENTITIES FORMED AS LIMITED LIABILITY  
 8 COMPANIES IN THE LOCAL OPTION ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LAW; AND  
 9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 67-1-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 12 amended as follows:

13 67-1-53. (1) Application for permits shall be in such form  
 14 and shall contain such information as shall be required by the  
 15 regulations of the commission; however, no regulation of the  
 16 commission shall require personal financial information from any  
 17 officer of a corporation applying for an on-premises retailer's  
 18 permit to sell alcoholic beverages unless such officer owns ten  
 19 percent (10%) or more of the stock of such corporation.

20 (2) Every applicant for each type of permit authorized by  
 21 Section 67-1-51 shall give notice of such application by  
 22 publication for two (2) consecutive issues in a newspaper of  
 23 general circulation published in the city or town in which  
 24 applicant's place of business is located. However, in \* \* \*  
 25 instances where no newspaper is published in the city or town,  
 26 then the notice shall be published in a newspaper of general  
 27 circulation published in the county where the applicant's business  
 28 is located. If no newspaper is published in the county, the  
 29 notice shall be published in a qualified newspaper which is  
 30 published in the closest neighboring county and circulated in the

31 county of applicant's residence. The notice shall be printed in  
32 ten-point black face type and shall set forth the type of permit  
33 to be applied for, the exact location of the place of business,  
34 the name of the owner or owners thereof, and if operating under an  
35 assumed name, the trade name together with the names of all  
36 owners, and if a corporation, the names and titles of all  
37 officers. The cost of such notice shall be borne by the  
38 applicant.

39 (3) Each application or filing made under this section shall  
40 include the social security number(s) of the applicant in  
41 accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

42 **SECTION 2.** Section 67-1-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
43 amended as follows:

44 67-1-25. No person shall be appointed director, agent or  
45 inspector for the commission under this chapter who is not a  
46 citizen of the United States and who has not resided within the  
47 State of Mississippi successively for five (5) years next  
48 preceding the date of his appointment. No director, agent,  
49 inspector or other employee shall be appointed under this chapter  
50 who has been convicted of any violation of any federal or state  
51 law concerning the manufacture, sale or possession of alcoholic  
52 liquor prior or subsequent to July 1, 1966, or who has paid a fine  
53 or penalty in settlement of any prosecution against him for any  
54 violation of such laws or shall have forfeited his bond to appear  
55 in court to answer charges for any such violation, nor shall any  
56 person be so appointed who has been convicted of a felony in any  
57 state or federal court. No person appointed or employed by the  
58 commission under this chapter may, directly or indirectly,  
59 individually or as a member of a partnership or limited liability  
60 company, or as a shareholder of a corporation, have any interest  
61 whatsoever in the manufacture, sale or distribution of alcoholic  
62 liquor, or receive any compensation or profit therefrom, or have  
63 any interest whatsoever in the purchases or sales made by the

64 persons authorized by this chapter to purchase or to sell  
65 alcoholic liquor.

66 This section shall not prevent any person appointed or  
67 employed by the commission from purchasing and keeping in his  
68 possession for the use of himself or members of his family or  
69 guests any alcoholic liquor which may be purchased or kept by any  
70 other person by virtue of this chapter.

71 **SECTION 3.** Section 67-1-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
72 amended as follows:

73 67-1-51. (1) Permits which may be issued by the commission  
74 shall be as follows:

75 (a) **Manufacturer's permit.** A manufacturer's permit  
76 shall permit the manufacture, importation in bulk, bottling and  
77 storage of alcoholic liquor and its distribution and sale to  
78 manufacturers holding permits under this chapter in this state and  
79 to persons outside the state who are authorized by law to purchase  
80 the same, and to sell exclusively to the commission.

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

82 Class 1. Distiller's and/or rectifier's permit, which shall  
83 authorize the holder thereof to operate a distillery for the  
84 production of distilled spirits by distillation or redistillation  
85 and/or to operate a rectifying plant for the purifying, refining,  
86 mixing, blending, flavoring or reducing in proof of distilled  
87 spirits and alcohol.

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

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

94 (b) **Package retailer's permit.** Except as otherwise  
95 provided in this paragraph, a package retailer's permit shall  
96 authorize the holder thereof to operate a store exclusively for

97 the sale at retail in original sealed and unopened packages of  
98 alcoholic beverages, including native wines, not to be consumed on  
99 the premises where sold. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold by  
100 any retailer in any package or container containing less than  
101 fifty (50) milliliters by liquid measure. In addition to the sale  
102 at retail of packages of alcoholic beverages, the holder of a  
103 package retailer's permit is authorized to sell at retail  
104 corkscrews, wine glasses, soft drinks, ice, juices, mixers and  
105 other beverages commonly used to mix with alcoholic beverages.  
106 Nonalcoholic beverages sold by the holder of a package retailer's  
107 permit shall not be consumed on the premises where sold.

108           (c) **On-premises retailer's permit.** An on-premises  
109 retailer's permit shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages,  
110 including native wines, for consumption on the licensed premises  
111 only. Such a permit shall issue only to qualified hotels,  
112 restaurants and clubs, and to common carriers with adequate  
113 facilities for serving passengers. In resort areas, whether  
114 inside or outside of a municipality, the commission may, in its  
115 discretion, issue on-premises retailer's permits to such  
116 establishments as it deems proper. An on-premises retailer's  
117 permit when issued to a common carrier shall authorize the sale  
118 and serving of alcoholic beverages aboard any licensed vehicle  
119 while moving through any county of the state; however, the sale of  
120 such alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted while such vehicle  
121 is stopped in a county that has not legalized such sales.

122           (d) **Solicitor's permit.** A solicitor's permit shall  
123 authorize the holder thereof to act as salesman for a manufacturer  
124 or wholesaler holding a proper permit, to solicit on behalf of his  
125 employer orders for alcoholic beverages, and to otherwise promote  
126 his employer's products in a legitimate manner. Such a permit  
127 shall authorize the representation of and employment by one (1)  
128 principal only. However, the permittee may also, in the  
129 discretion of the commission, be issued additional permits to

130 represent other principals. No such permittee shall buy or sell  
131 alcoholic beverages for his own account, and no such beverage  
132 shall be brought into this state in pursuance of the exercise of  
133 such permit otherwise than through a permit issued to a wholesaler  
134 or manufacturer in the state.

135 (e) **Native wine retailer's permit.** A native wine  
136 retailer's permit shall be issued only to a holder of a Class 3  
137 manufacturer's permit, and shall authorize the holder thereof to  
138 make retail sales of native wines to consumers for on-premises  
139 consumption or to consumers in originally sealed and unopened  
140 containers at an establishment located on the premises of or in  
141 the immediate vicinity of a native winery.

142 (f) **Temporary retailer's permit.** A temporary  
143 retailer's permit shall permit the purchase and resale of  
144 alcoholic beverages, including native wines, during legal hours on  
145 the premises described in the temporary permit only.

146 Temporary retailer's permits shall be of the following  
147 classes:

148 Class 1. A temporary one-day permit may be issued to bona  
149 fide nonprofit civic or charitable organizations authorizing the  
150 sale of alcoholic beverages, including native wine, for  
151 consumption on the premises described in the temporary permit  
152 only. Class 1 permits may be issued only to applicants  
153 demonstrating to the commission, by affidavit submitted ten (10)  
154 days prior to the proposed date or such other time as the  
155 commission may determine, that they meet the qualifications of  
156 Sections 67-1-11, 67-1-37, 67-1-51(2) and (3), 67-1-55, 67-1-57  
157 (excluding paragraph (e)) and 67-1-59. Class 1 permittees shall  
158 obtain all alcoholic beverages from package retailers located in  
159 the county in which the temporary permit is issued. Alcoholic  
160 beverages remaining in stock upon expiration of the temporary  
161 permit may be returned by the permittee to the package retailer  
162 for a refund of the purchase price upon consent of the package

163 retailer or may be kept by the permittee exclusively for personal  
164 use and consumption, subject to all laws pertaining to the illegal  
165 sale and possession of alcoholic beverages. The commission,  
166 following review of the affidavit and the requirements of the  
167 applicable statutes and regulations, may issue the permit.

168       Class 2. A temporary permit, not to exceed seventy (70)  
169 days, may be issued to prospective permittees seeking to transfer  
170 a permit authorized in either paragraph (b) or (c) of this  
171 section. A Class 2 permit may be issued only to applicants  
172 demonstrating to the commission, by affidavit, that they meet the  
173 qualifications of Sections 67-1-5(1), (m), (n), (o), (p) or (q),  
174 67-1-37, 67-1-51(2) and (3), 67-1-55, 67-1-57 and 67-1-59. The  
175 commission, following a preliminary review of the affidavit and  
176 the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations, may  
177 issue the permit.

178       Class 2 temporary permittees must purchase their alcoholic  
179 beverages directly from the commission or, with approval of the  
180 commission, purchase the remaining stock of the previous  
181 permittee. If the proposed applicant of a Class 1 or Class 2  
182 temporary permit falsifies information contained in the  
183 application or affidavit, the applicant shall never again be  
184 eligible for a retail alcohol beverage permit and shall be subject  
185 to prosecution for perjury.

186       (g) **Caterer's permit.** A caterer's permit shall permit  
187 the purchase of alcoholic beverages by a person engaging in  
188 business as a caterer and the resale of alcoholic beverages by  
189 such person in conjunction with such catering business. No person  
190 shall qualify as a caterer unless forty percent (40%) or more of  
191 the revenue derived from such catering business shall be from the  
192 serving of prepared food and not from the sale of alcoholic  
193 beverages and unless such person has obtained a permit for such  
194 business from the Department of Health. A caterer's permit shall  
195 not authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on the premises of

196 the person engaging in business as a caterer; however, the holder  
197 of an on-premises retailer's permit may hold a caterer's permit.  
198 All sales of alcoholic beverages by holders of a caterer's permit  
199 shall be made at the location being catered by the caterer, and  
200 such sales may be made only for consumption at the catered  
201 location. Such sales shall be made pursuant to any other  
202 conditions and restrictions which apply to sales made by  
203 on-premises retail permittees. The holder of a caterer's permit  
204 or his employees shall remain at the catered location as long as  
205 alcoholic beverages are being sold pursuant to the permit issued  
206 under this paragraph (g), and the permittee and employees at such  
207 location shall each have personal identification cards issued by  
208 the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the commission. No  
209 unsold alcoholic beverages may be left at the catered location by  
210 the permittee upon the conclusion of his business at that  
211 location. Appropriate law enforcement officers and Alcoholic  
212 Beverage Control Division personnel may enter a catered location  
213 on private property in order to enforce laws governing the sale or  
214 serving of alcoholic beverages.

215 (h) **Research Permit.** A research permit shall authorize  
216 the holder thereof to operate a research facility for the  
217 professional research of alcoholic beverages. Such permit shall  
218 authorize the holder of the permit to import and purchase limited  
219 amounts of alcoholic beverages from the commission or from  
220 importers, wineries and distillers of alcoholic beverages for  
221 professional research.

222 (i) **Alcohol processing permit.** An alcohol processing  
223 permit shall authorize the holder thereof to purchase, transport  
224 and possess alcoholic beverages for the exclusive use in cooking,  
225 processing or manufacturing products which contain alcoholic  
226 beverages as an integral ingredient. An alcohol processing permit  
227 shall not authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on the  
228 premises of the person engaging in the business of cooking,

229 processing or manufacturing products which contain alcoholic  
230 beverages. The amounts of alcoholic beverages allowed under an  
231 alcohol processing permit shall be set by the commission.

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

235 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no  
236 authority shall be granted to any person to manufacture, sell or  
237 store for sale any intoxicating liquor as specified in this  
238 chapter within four hundred (400) feet of any church, school,  
239 kindergarten or funeral home. However, within an area zoned  
240 commercial or business, such minimum distance shall be not less  
241 than one hundred (100) feet.

242 A church or funeral home may waive the distance restrictions  
243 imposed in this subsection in favor of allowing issuance by the  
244 commission of a permit, pursuant to subsection (1) of this  
245 section, to authorize activity relating to the manufacturing, sale  
246 or storage of alcoholic beverages which would otherwise be  
247 prohibited under the minimum distance criterion. Such waiver  
248 shall be in written form from the owner, the governing body, or  
249 the appropriate officer of the church or funeral home having the  
250 authority to execute such a waiver, and the waiver shall be filed  
251 with and verified by the commission before becoming effective.

252 The distance restrictions imposed in this subsection shall  
253 not apply to the sale or storage of alcoholic beverages at a bed  
254 and breakfast inn listed in the National Register of Historic  
255 Places.

256 (4) No person, either individually or as a member of a firm,  
257 partnership, limited liability company or association, or as a  
258 stockholder, officer or director in a corporation, shall own or  
259 control any interest in more than one (1) package retailer's  
260 permit, nor shall such person's spouse, if living in the same  
261 household of such person, any relative of such person, if living



262 in the same household of such person, or any other person living  
263 in the same household with such person own any interest in any  
264 other package retailer's permit.

265 **SECTION 4.** Section 67-1-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
266 amended as follows:

267 67-1-55. No permit of any type shall be issued by the  
268 commission until the applicant has first filed with the commission  
269 a sworn statement disclosing all persons who are financially  
270 involved in the operation of the business for which the permit is  
271 sought. If an applicant is an individual, he will swear that he  
272 owns one hundred per cent (100%) of the business for which he is  
273 seeking a permit. If the applicant is a partnership, all partners  
274 and their addresses shall be disclosed and the extent of their  
275 interest in the partnership shall be disclosed. If the applicant  
276 is a corporation, the total stock in the corporation shall be  
277 disclosed and each shareholder and his address and the amount of  
278 stock in the corporation owned by him shall be disclosed. If the  
279 applicant is a limited liability company, each member and their  
280 addresses shall be disclosed and the extent of their interest in  
281 the limited liability company shall be disclosed. If the  
282 applicant is a trust, the trustee and all beneficiaries and their  
283 addresses shall be disclosed. If the applicant is a combination  
284 of any of the above, all information required to be disclosed  
285 above shall be required.

286 All the disclosures shall be in writing and kept on file at  
287 the commission's office and shall be available to the public.

288 Every applicant must, when applying for a renewal of his  
289 permit, disclose any change in the ownership of the business or  
290 any change in the beneficiaries of the income from the business.

291 Any person who willfully fails to fully disclose the \* \* \*  
292 information required by this section, or who gives false  
293 information, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction  
294 thereof, shall be fined a sum not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars

295 (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not more than one (1) year, or both,  
296 and the person or applicant shall never again be eligible for any  
297 permit pertaining to alcoholic beverages.

298 **SECTION 5.** Section 67-1-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
299 amended as follows:

300 67-1-57. Before a permit is issued the commission shall  
301 satisfy itself:

302 (a) That the applicant, if an individual, or if a  
303 partnership, each of the members of the partnership, or if a  
304 corporation, each of its principal officers and directors, or if a  
305 limited liability company, each member of the limited liability  
306 company, is of good moral character and, in addition, enjoys a  
307 reputation of being a peaceable, law-abiding citizen of the  
308 community in which he resides, and is generally fit for the trust  
309 to be reposed in him, is not less than twenty-one (21) years of  
310 age, and has not been convicted of a felony in any state or  
311 federal court.

312 (b) That, except in the case of an application for a  
313 solicitor's permit, the applicant is the true and actual owner of  
314 the business for which the permit is desired, and that he intends  
315 to carry on the business authorized for himself and not as the  
316 agent of any other person, and that he intends to superintend in  
317 person the management of the business or that he will designate a  
318 manager to manage the business for him; any \* \* \* manager must be  
319 approved by the commission and must possess all of the  
320 qualifications required of a permittee.

321 (c) That the applicant for a package retailer's permit,  
322 if an individual, is a resident of the State of Mississippi. If  
323 the applicant is a partnership, each member of the partnership  
324 must be a resident of the state. If the applicant is a limited  
325 liability company, each member of the limited liability company  
326 must be a resident of the state. If the applicant is a

327 corporation, the designated manager of the corporation must be a  
328 resident of the state.

329 (d) That the place for which the permit is to be issued  
330 is an appropriate one considering the character of the premises  
331 and the surrounding neighborhood.

332 (e) That the place for which the permit is to be issued  
333 is within the corporate limits of an incorporated municipality or  
334 qualified resort area or club which comes within the provisions of  
335 this chapter.

336 (f) That the applicant is not indebted to the state for  
337 any taxes, fees or payment of penalties imposed by any law of the  
338 State of Mississippi or by any rule or regulation of the  
339 commission.

340 (g) That the applicant is not in the habit of using  
341 alcoholic beverages to excess and is not physically or mentally  
342 incapacitated, and that the applicant has the ability to read and  
343 write the English language.

344 (h) That the commission does not believe and has no  
345 reason to believe that the applicant will sell or knowingly permit  
346 any agent, servant or employee to unlawfully sell liquor in a dry  
347 area or in any other manner contrary to law.

348 (i) That the applicant is not residentially domiciled  
349 with any person whose permit or license has been cancelled for  
350 cause within the twelve (12) months next preceding the date of the  
351 present application for a permit.

352 (j) That the commission has not, in the exercise of its  
353 discretion which is reserved and preserved to it, refused to  
354 grant \* \* \* permits under the restrictions of this section, as  
355 well as under any other pertinent provision of this chapter.

356 (k) That there are not sufficient legal reasons to deny  
357 a permit on the ground that the premises for which the permit is  
358 sought has previously been operated, used or frequented for any  
359 purpose or in any manner that is lewd, immoral or offensive to

360 public decency. In the granting or withholding of any permit to  
361 sell alcoholic beverages at retail, the commission in forming its  
362 conclusions may give consideration to any recommendations made in  
363 writing by the district or county attorney or county, circuit or  
364 chancery judge of the county, or the sheriff of the county, or the  
365 mayor or chief of police of an incorporated city or town wherein  
366 the applicant proposes to conduct his business and to any  
367 recommendations made by representatives of the commission.

368 (1) That the applicant and the applicant's key  
369 employees, as determined by the commission, do not have a  
370 disqualifying criminal record. In order to obtain a criminal  
371 record history check, the applicant shall submit to the commission  
372 a set of fingerprints from any local law enforcement agency for  
373 each person for whom the records check is required. The  
374 commission shall forward the fingerprints to the Mississippi  
375 Department of Public Safety. If no disqualifying record is  
376 identified at the state level, the Department of Public Safety  
377 shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of  
378 Investigation for a national criminal history record check. Costs  
379 for processing the set or sets of fingerprints shall be borne by  
380 the applicant. The commission shall not deny employment to an  
381 employee of the applicant prior to the identification of a  
382 disqualifying record or other disqualifying information.

383 **SECTION 6.** Section 67-1-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
384 amended as follows:

385 67-1-59. Where the word "applicant" is used in Section  
386 67-1-57 or in Sections 67-1-51, 67-1-53, 67-1-55 and 67-1-63, it  
387 shall also mean and include each member of a partnership, limited  
388 liability company or association and all officers and the owner or  
389 owners of the majority of the corporate stock of a corporation, as  
390 of the date of the application.

391 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
392 and after its passage.