MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

By: Senator(s) Baria

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2851

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 67-1-5, 67-3-1, 67-3-5, 67-3-7,
67-3-9, 67-3-11, 67-3-13, 67-3-17, 67-3-28, 67-3-49, 67-3-53 AND
27-71-509, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE PERMISSIBLE
ALCOHOLIC CONTENT OF BEER FROM 5% OF ALCOHOL BY WEIGHT TO 17% OF
ALCOHOL BY WEIGHT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
SECTION 1. Section 67-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

8 amended as follows:

9 67-1-5. For the purposes of this chapter and unless10 otherwise required by the context:

(a) "Alcoholic beverage" means any alcoholic liquid, 11 12 including wines of more than five percent (5%) of alcohol by weight, capable of being consumed as a beverage by a human being, 13 14 but shall not include wine containing five percent (5%) or less of 15 alcohol by weight and shall not include beer containing not more than seventeen percent (17%) of alcohol by weight, as provided for 16 in Section 67-3-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, but shall include 17 native wines. The words "alcoholic beverage" shall not include 18 ethyl alcohol manufactured or distilled solely for fuel purposes. 19 20 (b) "Alcohol" means the product of distillation of any

21 fermented liquid, whatever the origin thereof, and includes 22 synthetic ethyl alcohol, but does not include denatured alcohol or 23 wood alcohol.

(c) "Distilled spirits" means any beverage containing
more than four percent (4%) of alcohol by weight produced by
distillation of fermented grain, starch, molasses or sugar,
including dilutions and mixtures of these beverages.

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(d) "Wine" or "vinous liquor" means any product
obtained from the alcoholic fermentation of the juice of sound,
ripe grapes, fruits or berries and made in accordance with the
revenue laws of the United States.

32 (e) "Person" means and includes any individual,
33 partnership, corporation, association or other legal entity
34 whatsoever.

35 (f) "Manufacturer" means any person engaged in 36 manufacturing, distilling, rectifying, blending or bottling any 37 alcoholic beverage.

38 (g) "Wholesaler" means any person, other than a 39 manufacturer, engaged in distributing or selling any alcoholic 40 beverage at wholesale for delivery within or without this state 41 when such sale is for the purpose of resale by the purchaser.

(h) "Retailer" means any person who sells, distributes,
or offers for sale or distribution, any alcoholic beverage for use
or consumption by the purchaser and not for resale.

(i) "Commission" means the State Tax Commission of the
State of Mississippi, which shall create a division in its
organization to be known as the Alcoholic Beverage Control
Division. Any reference to the commission hereafter means the
powers and duties of the State Tax Commission with reference to
supervision of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division.

51 (j) "Division" means the Alcoholic Beverage Control
52 Division of the State Tax Commission.

53 (k) "Municipality" means any incorporated city or town54 of this state.

(1) "Hotel" means an establishment within a municipality, or within a qualified resort area approved as such by the commission, where, in consideration of payment, food and lodging are habitually furnished to travelers and wherein are located at least twenty (20) adequately furnished and completely separate sleeping rooms with adequate facilities that persons S. B. No. 2851

usually apply for and receive as overnight accommodations. Hotels 61 in towns or cities of more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) 62 population are similarly defined except that they must have fifty 63 64 (50) or more sleeping rooms. Any such establishment described in 65 this paragraph with less than fifty (50) beds shall operate one or 66 more regular dining rooms designed to be constantly frequented by 67 customers each day. When used in this chapter, the word "hotel" 68 shall also be construed to include any establishment that meets the definition of "bed and breakfast inn" as provided in this 69 70 section.

"Restaurant" means a place which is regularly and 71 (m) 72 in a bona fide manner used and kept open for the serving of meals 73 to guests for compensation, which has suitable seating facilities 74 for guests, and which has suitable kitchen facilities connected therewith for cooking an assortment of foods and meals commonly 75 ordered at various hours of the day; the service of such food as 76 77 sandwiches and salads only shall not be deemed in compliance with 78 this requirement. No place shall qualify as a restaurant under 79 this chapter unless twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the 80 revenue derived from such place shall be from the preparation, cooking and serving of meals and not from the sale of beverages, 81 82 or unless the value of food given to and consumed by customers is 83 equal to twenty-five percent (25%) or more of total revenue. "Club" means an association or a corporation: 84 (n) 85 (i) Organized or created under the laws of this state for a period of five (5) years prior to July 1, 1966; 86 87 (ii) Organized not primarily for pecuniary profit but for the promotion of some common object other than the sale or 88 89 consumption of alcoholic beverages; 90 (iii) Maintained by its members through the payment of annual dues; 91 92 (iv) Owning, hiring or leasing a building or space in a building of such extent and character as may be suitable and 93 S. B. No. 2851 08/SS02/R1030 PAGE 3

94 adequate for the reasonable and comfortable use and accommodation 95 of its members and their guests;

96 (v) The affairs and management of which are 97 conducted by a board of directors, board of governors, executive 98 committee, or similar governing body chosen by the members at a 99 regular meeting held at some periodic interval; and

(vi) No member, officer, agent or employee of which is paid, or directly or indirectly receives, in the form of a salary or other compensation any profit from the distribution or sale of alcoholic beverages to the club or to members or guests of the club beyond such salary or compensation as may be fixed and voted at a proper meeting by the board of directors or other governing body out of the general revenues of the club.

107 The commission may, in its discretion, waive the five-year 108 provision of this paragraph. In order to qualify under this paragraph, a club must file with the commission, at the time of 109 its application for a license under this chapter, two (2) copies 110 111 of a list of the names and residences of its members and similarly 112 file, within ten (10) days after the election of any additional 113 member, his name and address. Each club applying for a license 114 shall also file with the commission at the time of the application 115 a copy of its articles of association, charter of incorporation, 116 bylaws or other instruments governing the business and affairs 117 thereof.

118 (\circ) "Qualified resort area" means any area or locality 119 outside of the limits of incorporated municipalities in this state 120 commonly known and accepted as a place which regularly and 121 customarily attracts tourists, vacationists and other transients because of its historical, scenic or recreational facilities or 122 123 attractions, or because of other attributes which regularly and customarily appeal to and attract tourists, vacationists and other 124 125 transients in substantial numbers; however, no area or locality

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126 shall so qualify as a resort area until it has been duly and 127 properly approved as such by the commission.

(i) The commission may approve an area or locality outside of the limits of an incorporated municipality that is in the process of being developed as a qualified resort area if such area or locality, when developed, can reasonably be expected to meet the requisites of the definition of the term "qualified resort area." In such a case, the status of qualified resort area shall not take effect until completion of the development.

(ii) The term includes any state park which is 135 136 declared a resort area by the commission; however, such 137 declaration may only be initiated in a written request for resort 138 area status made to the commission by the Executive Director of 139 the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and no permit for the sale of any alcoholic beverage, as defined in this chapter, 140 141 except an on-premises retailer's permit, shall be issued for a hotel, restaurant or bed and breakfast inn in such park. 142

143 (iii) The term includes:

144 1. The clubhouses associated with the state 145 park golf courses at the Lefleur's Bluff State Park, the John Kyle 146 State Park, the Percy Quin State Park and the Hugh White State 147 Park; and

2. The clubhouse and associated golf course 148 where the golf course is adjacent to one or more planned 149 150 residential developments and the golf course and all such 151 developments collectively include at least seven hundred fifty (750) acres and at least four hundred (400) residential units. 152 153 The status of these clubhouses and golf courses as qualified 154 resort areas does not require any declaration of same by the 155 commission.

(p) "Native wine" means any product, produced in Mississippi for sale, having an alcohol content not to exceed twenty-one percent (21%) by weight and made in accordance with

revenue laws of the United States, which shall be obtained 159 160 primarily from the alcoholic fermentation of the juice of ripe 161 grapes, fruits, berries or vegetables grown and produced in 162 Mississippi; provided that bulk, concentrated or fortified wines 163 used for blending may be produced without this state and used in 164 producing native wines. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to permit a producer to import such bulk 165 166 and/or fortified wines into this state for use in blending with 167 native wines without payment of any excise tax that would otherwise accrue thereon. 168

(q) "Native winery" means any place or establishment within the State of Mississippi where native wine is produced in whole or in part for sale.

172 "Bed and breakfast inn" means an establishment (r) 173 within a municipality where in consideration of payment, breakfast 174 and lodging are habitually furnished to travelers and wherein are located not less than eight (8) and not more than nineteen (19) 175 176 adequately furnished and completely separate sleeping rooms with 177 adequate facilities, that persons usually apply for and receive as 178 overnight accommodations; however, such restriction on the minimum 179 number of sleeping rooms shall not apply to establishments on the 180 National Register of Historic Places. No place shall qualify as a 181 bed and breakfast inn under this chapter unless on the date of the initial application for a license under this chapter more than 182 183 fifty percent (50%) of the sleeping rooms are located in a structure formerly used as a residence. 184

185 SECTION 2. Section 67-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 186 amended as follows:

187 67-3-1. The purpose of this chapter is to legalize the 188 manufacture and sale within this state of light wines * * * of an 189 alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight <u>and</u> 190 <u>beer of an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent</u>

191 (17%) by weight, and to regulate the business of manufacturing and

192 of selling light wines and beer so as to prevent the illicit

193 manufacture, sale and consumption of <u>alcoholic beverages defined</u> 194 <u>in Section 67-1-5</u>, the manufacture and sale of which it is not the 195 purpose of this chapter to legalize.

196 SECTION 3. Section 67-3-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 197 amended as follows:

198 67-3-5. It shall be lawful, subject to the provisions set 199 forth in this chapter, in this state to transport, store, sell, 200 distribute, possess, receive and/or manufacture wine * * * of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight and 201 202 beer of an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent 203 (17%) by weight, and it is hereby declared that it is the 204 legislative intent that this chapter privileges the lawful sale 205 and manufacture, within this state, of such light wines and beer. In determining if a wine product is "light wine," or contains an 206 207 alcoholic content of more than five percent (5%) by weight, or is not an "alcoholic beverage" as defined in the Local Option 208 209 Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, Chapter 1 of Title 67, Mississippi 210 Code of 1972, the alcoholic content of such wine product shall be 211 subject to the same permitted tolerance as is allowed by the 212 labeling requirements for light wine provided for in Section 213 27-71-509.

214 **SECTION 4.** Section 67-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 215 amended as follows:

216 67-3-7. (1) If any county, at an election held for the purpose under the election laws of the state, shall by a majority 217 218 vote of the duly qualified electors voting in the election 219 determine that the transportation, storage, sale, distribution, receipt and/or manufacture of wine * * * of an alcoholic content 220 221 of not more than five percent (5%) by weight and beer of an 222 alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent (17%) by 223 weight shall not be permitted in such county, then the same shall 224 not be permitted therein except as authorized under Section 67-9-1 S. B. No. 2851

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In counties which have elected, or may elect by a majority 233 vote of the duly qualified electors voting in the election, that 234 235 the transportation, storage, sale, distribution, receipt and/or manufacture of wine * * * of an alcoholic content of not more than 236 five percent (5%) by weight and beer of an alcoholic content of 237 238 not more than seventeen percent (17%) by weight shall not be 239 permitted in the county, an election may be held in the same manner as the election hereinabove provided on the question of 240 whether or not the transportation, storage, sale, distribution, 241 242 receipt and/or manufacture of said beverages shall be permitted in 243 such county. Such election shall be ordered by the board of 244 supervisors of such county on a petition of twenty percent (20%) 245 of the duly qualified electors of such county. No election on 246 this question can be ordered more often than once in five (5) 247 years.

(2) Nothing in this section shall make it unlawful to
possess beer or wine, as defined herein, in any municipality which
has heretofore or which may hereafter vote in an election,
pursuant to Section 67-3-9, in which a majority of the qualified
electors vote in favor of permitting the sale and the receipt,
storage and transportation for the purpose of sale of beer or wine
as defined herein.

(3) Nothing in this section shall make it unlawful to:(a) Possess or consume light wine or beer at a

257 qualified resort area as defined in Section 67-1-5;

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(b) Sell, distribute and transport light wine or beer to a qualified resort area as defined in Section 67-1-5;

Sell light wine or beer at a qualified resort area 260 (C) as defined in Section 67-1-5 if such light wine or beer is sold by 261 262 a person with a permit to engage in the business as a retailer of 263 light wine or beer.

264 SECTION 5. Section 67-3-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 265 amended as follows:

266 67-3-9. Any city in this state, having a population of not 267 less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) according to the 268 latest federal census, at an election held for the purpose, under 269 the election laws applicable to such city, may either prohibit or 270 permit, except as otherwise provided under Section 67-9-1, the 271 sale and the receipt, storage and transportation for the purpose 272 of sale of light wine of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight and beer of an alcoholic content of 273 not more than seventeen percent (17%). An election to determine 274 whether such sale shall be permitted in cities wherein its sale is 275 276 prohibited by law shall be ordered by the city council or mayor 277 and board of aldermen or other governing body of such city for 278 such city only, upon the presentation of a petition for such city 279 to such governing board containing the names of twenty percent 280 (20%) of the duly qualified voters of such city asking for such election. In like manner, an election to determine whether such 281 282 sale shall be prohibited in cities wherein its sale is permitted 283 by law shall be ordered by the city council or mayor and board of aldermen or other governing board of such city for such city only, 284 285 upon the presentation of a petition to such governing board containing the names of twenty percent (20%) of the duly qualified 286 287 voters of such city asking for such election. No election on either question shall be held by any one (1) city more often than 288 289 once in five (5) years.

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290 Thirty (30) days' notice shall be given to the qualified electors of such city in the manner prescribed by law upon the 291 question of either permitting or prohibiting such sale, and the 292 293 notice shall contain a statement of the question to be voted on at 294 the election. The tickets to be used in the election shall have 295 the following words printed thereon: "For the legal sale of light 296 wine of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight and beer of an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen 297 298 percent (17%) by weight"; and the words "Against the legal sale of light wine of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent 299 300 (5%) by weight and beer of an alcoholic content of not more than 301 seventeen percent (17%) weight," next below. In making up his 302 ticket the voter shall make a cross (X) opposite the words of his 303 choice.

If in the election a majority of the qualified electors 304 voting in the election shall vote "For the legal sale of <u>light</u> 305 wine of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by 306 307 weight and beer of an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen 308 percent (17%) weight," then the city council or mayor and board of aldermen or other governing body shall pass the necessary order 309 310 permitting the legal sale of such light wine and beer in such 311 city. If in the election a majority of the qualified electors 312 voting in the election shall vote "Against the legal sale of light wine of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by 313 314 weight and beer of an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen 315 percent (17%) weight," then the city council or mayor and board of aldermen or other governing body shall pass the necessary order 316 317 prohibiting the sale of such light wine and beer in such city. 318 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this section are

319 hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict only, this section 320 being cumulative and supplementary.

321 SECTION 6. Section 67-3-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

322 amended as follows:

323 67-3-11. Every person shall have the right to make homemade 324 wine <u>and beer</u> for domestic or household uses only, free of all 325 restraint by this chapter or otherwise, and no such election as 326 provided for in Sections 67-3-7, 67-3-9 and 67-3-13, shall deprive 327 any person of the right to make homemade wine <u>or beer</u> for domestic 328 or household uses only.

329 **SECTION 7.** Section 67-3-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 330 amended as follows:

67-3-13. (1) Except as otherwise provided herein and as 331 authorized under this section and Section 67-9-1, in any county 332 333 which has at any time since February 26, 1934, elected, or which 334 may hereafter elect, to prohibit the transportation, storage, sale, distribution, receipt and/or manufacture of wine and beer of 335 336 an alcoholic content of not more than four percent (4%) by weight 337 in such county, it is hereby declared to be unlawful to possess 338 such beverages therein. In any county which, after July 1, 1998, elects to prohibit the transportation, storage, sale, 339 340 distribution, receipt and/or manufacture of wine and beer of an 341 alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight in 342 such county, it is hereby declared to be unlawful to possess such 343 beer therein. In any county which, after July 1, 2008, elects to prohibit the transportation, storage, sale, distribution, receipt 344 345 and/or manufacture of wine of an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight in such county and beer of an 346 347 alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent (17%) weight, 348 it is hereby declared to be unlawful to possess such beer therein. 349 Any person found possessing any beer or wine of any quantity 350 whatsoever in such county shall, on conviction, be imprisoned not more than ninety (90) days or fined not more than Five Hundred 351 352 Dollars (\$500.00), or be both so fined and imprisoned. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this 353 354 section, in any county or municipality in which the 355 transportation, storage, sale, distribution, receipt and/or

356 manufacture of light wine and beer is prohibited, it shall not be 357 unlawful for a permitted wholesaler or distributor to possess 358 light wine and beer when such light wine and beer is held therein 359 solely for the purpose of storage and for distribution to other 360 counties and municipalities in which possession of such beverages 361 is lawful.

362 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and
363 (2) of this section, in any county in which transportation,
364 storage, sale, distribution, receipt and/or manufacture of light
365 wine and beer is prohibited, it shall not be unlawful:

366 (a) To receive, store, possess or consume light wine or
367 beer at a resort area as defined in Section 67-1-5;

368 (b) To distribute and transport light wine or beer to a369 resort area as defined in Section 67-1-5.

370 **SECTION 8.** Section 67-3-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 371 amended as follows:

372 67-3-17. Any person desiring to engage in any business 373 taxable under Sections 27-71-303 through 27-71-317, Mississippi 374 Code of 1972, either as a retailer, or as a wholesaler or 375 distributor, or as a manufacturer, of light wines or beer, shall 376 file with the commissioner an application for a permit allowing 377 him to engage in such business. The application for a permit shall be filed on a blank to be furnished by the commissioner for 378 that purpose, and shall contain a statement showing the name of 379 380 the business, and if a partnership, firm or association, the name 381 of each partner or member, and if a corporation the names of two 382 (2) principal officers, the post office address, and the nature of 383 business in which engaged. In case any business is conducted at two (2) or more separate places, a separate permit for each place 384 385 of business shall be required.

386 The applicant, at the time of filing such application for a 387 permit or license to engage in such business, shall also file with 388 the commissioner an oath, duly subscribed and sworn to by him

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389 before an officer authorized to administer oaths, that he will not 390 allow any intoxicating liquor as defined by this chapter, including beer, wine and distilled spirits, or alcoholic, malt, or 391 392 vinous liquors including * * * wine, having an alcoholic content 393 of more than five percent (5%) by weight and beer having an 394 alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent (17%) weight, 395 to be kept, stored or secreted in or on the premises described in 396 such permit or license, and that the applicant will not otherwise 397 violate any law of this state, or knowingly allow any other person to violate any such law, while in or on such premises. 398

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

402 **SECTION 9.** Section 67-3-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 403 amended as follows:

404 67-3-28. (1) Any person desiring to engage in business as a 405 brewpub shall file with the commissioner, along with the 406 application required by Section 67-3-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, 407 a certificate issued by a licensed testing laboratory indicating 408 that such laboratory has tested a sample of the applicant's beer 409 or light wine, or both, and that the alcohol content of such 410 sample does not exceed seventeen percent (17%) by weight.

411 (2) Every brewpub shall be required to submit to random testing by the commissioner to determine whether any beer or light 412 413 wine being manufactured, sold, kept, stored or secreted by the 414 license holder contains an alcohol content greater than seventeen percent (17%) by weight. The commissioner shall establish and 415 416 administer testing standards and procedures to be used in such 417 random testing. The brewpub licensee shall be responsible for all 418 costs incurred by the commissioner in conducting random testing 419 under this section.

SECTION 10. Section 67-3-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

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421 amended as follows:

422 67-3-49. It shall be unlawful for any brewer or manufacturer 423 or distributor or wholesale dealer of or in light wines and/or 424 beer to manufacture or knowingly bring upon his premises or keep 425 thereon any * * * wine of an alcoholic content of more than five 426 percent (5%) by weight and beer of an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent (17%) weight, or any distilled spirits 427 428 of any alcoholic content whatsoever. Any person that shall add to 429 or mix with any beer or light wine any alcoholic or other liquid, 430 or any alcohol cube or cubes, or any other ingredient or ingredients that will increase or tend to increase the alcoholic 431 432 content of such liquor, or any person that shall knowingly offer 433 for sale any liquor so treated, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor 434 and punished as hereinafter provided in this chapter. The 435 commissioner shall take any action he considers necessary to ensure that light wine and/or beer manufactured at a brewpub 436 complies with the provisions of this section. 437

438 SECTION 11. Section 67-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 439 amended as follows:

440 67-3-53. In addition to any act declared to be unlawful by 441 this chapter, or by Sections 27-71-301 through 27-71-347, and 442 Sections 67-3-17, 67-3-27, 67-3-29 and 67-3-57, it shall be 443 unlawful for the holder of a permit authorizing the sale of beer 444 or light wine at retail or for the employee of the holder of such 445 a permit:

446 (a) To sell or give to be consumed in or upon any 447 licensed premises any beer or light wine between the hours of midnight and seven o'clock the following morning or during any 448 449 time the licensed premises may be required to be closed by municipal ordinance or order of the board of supervisors; 450 451 provided, however, in areas where the sale of alcoholic beverages 452 is legal under the provisions of the Local Option Alcoholic 453 Beverage Control Law and the hours for selling such alcoholic 454 beverages have been extended beyond midnight for on-premises

455 permittees under Section 67-1-37, the hours for selling beer or 456 light wines are likewise extended in areas where the sale of beer 457 and light wines is legal in accordance with the provisions of this 458 chapter.

(b) To sell, give or furnish any beer or light wine to
any person visibly or noticeably intoxicated, or to any insane
person, or to any habitual drunkard, or to any person under the
age of twenty-one (21) years.

463 (c) To permit in the premises any lewd, immoral or464 improper entertainment, conduct or practices.

(d) To permit loud, boisterous or disorderly conduct of any kind upon the premises or to permit the use of loud musical instruments if either or any of the same may disturb the peace and quietude of the community wherein such business is located.

(e) To permit persons of ill repute, known criminals,
prostitutes or minors to frequent the licensed premises, except
minors accompanied by parents or guardians, or under proper
supervision.

473 (f) To permit or suffer illegal gambling or the474 operation of illegal games of chance upon the licensed premises.

(g) To receive, possess or sell on the licensed
premises any beverage of any kind or character containing more
than five percent (5%) of alcohol by weight <u>except and beer</u>
<u>containing an alcoholic content of not more than seventeen percent</u>
<u>(17%) weight</u> unless the licensee also possesses an on-premises
permit under the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

481 SECTION 12. Section 27-71-509, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 482 amended as follows:

483 27-71-509. It shall be unlawful for any brewer, 484 manufacturer, distributor or retailer of light wines and beer, or 485 either of them, to whom a permit has been issued under the 486 provisions of Sections 67-3-15 and 67-3-23, Mississippi Code of 487 1972, to write or print on any label or container of either of the

above named commodities any matter relating to the alcoholic 488 489 content of such beverage or beverages, except a statement, to the 490 effect that the contents of the vessel or container in which light 491 wine shall be sold does not contain alcohol in excess of five 492 percent (5%) of the contents thereof, by weight and that the 493 contents of the vessel or container in which beer shall be sold 494 does not contain alcohol in excess or seventeen percent (17%) of 495 the contents thereof by weight. It shall be unlawful for any such 496 brewer, wholesaler, distributor or retailer to sell any such 497 commodity with any statement in conflict with the provisions of 498 this section, with reference to the alcoholic content of such 499 beverage or beverages, except that a statement of alcoholic 500 content may be expressed on any light wine or beer label in terms 501 of volume or weight, at the manufacturer's option; and such statement, if by volume, shall be subject to the same permitted 502 503 tolerance allowed for wine containing fourteen percent (14%) 504 alcohol by volume or less by Section 4.36(b)(1) of the Federal 505 Labeling Requirements for Wine, 27 CFR Part 4, subpart D, and 506 Section 7.71(c) 27 CFR Part 7, subpart G, and, if by weight, shall be subject to an equivalent permitted tolerance, determined in 507 508 terms of alcohol by weight.

509 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 510 and after July 1, 2008.