

VBA Legislative Update -- Week 14 April 18, 2026

→ The Week Ahead for VBA

- **Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.** The committee's [agenda](#) includes consideration of [H.921 An act relating to alcoholic beverages](#) on Thursday morning, April 23. The committee could vote the bill at this time. At this point, no witnesses are scheduled to testify.

→ Update on Miscellaneous Alcohol Bill

H.921 An act relating to alcoholic beverages. Last Thursday morning, the Senate Economic Development Committee took testimony on H.921. You can watch the hearing [here](#). The hearing went very well, with all witnesses expressing support for the bill. We expect that the committee may vote on the bill next Thursday, April 23.

The committee heard from:

- **Emma Arian, VBA Executive Director.** Emma's testimony is [here](#). She also provided the committee with this [fact sheet on self-distribution](#) and this [Brewbound Article](#).
- **Jesse Cronin, Lucy & Howe Brewing Company.** Jesse's testimony is [here](#).
- **Darren Orr, Two Heros Brewery and Public House.** Darren's testimony is [here](#).
- **David Keck, Stella 14 Wine / Grape & Wine Council.**
- **Wendy Knight, DLL Commissioner.** Commissioner Knight's testimony is [here](#).

The committee also received written testimony from:

- **Jennifer Kimmich, The Alchemist.** Jenn's testimony is [here](#).
- **Diedre Heekin, La Garagista.** Diedre's testimony is [here](#).

As a reminder, the bill includes the following provisions:

Section 1: Changes the term for service on the Liquor and Lottery Board from 2 to 4 years

Section 2:

- Increase the allowable **total volume** of alcoholic beverages that may be served for consumption at a 4th class licensed location (aka tasting room),
 - not more than an aggregate total of 16 ounces of malt beverages or hard cider;
 - not more than an aggregate total of 12 ounces of vinous beverages or ready-to-drink spirits beverages; and
 - not more than one-quarter ounce of spirits or fortified wine with a total of two ounces.
 - this does not apply to farmers markets
- Increases from **one to ten** the number of 4th class license locations that a licensed manufacturer is allowed to sell alcoholic beverages produced by other manufacturers. At these locations, they may sell unopened beverages or serve them by the glass (with or

without charge), provided the beverages are purchased on invoice from the producing manufacturers or rectifiers.

Section 3: Removes the restriction on hours of operation for sale for off-premise consumption (was 10am – 11pm) and aligns with all other liquor sales under DLL rules.

Section 4: This is a technical, or “housekeeping” change to the law to conform with other sections of law.

Section 5: Changes the application deadline for a retail alcoholic beverage tasting permit from at least five days to at least one day before an event.

Section 6:

- Allows vinous beverage manufacturer the same right as a malt beverage manufacturer to operate two licensed establishments at their manufacturing facility or on land contiguous.
- Allows malt beverage manufacturers to self-distribute up to 3000 barrels of malt beverage annually. **THIS IS THE VBA’S PRIORITY SECTION OF THE BILL.**

Section 7: Sunsets (repeals) the right of malt beverage manufacturers to self-distribute up to 3000 barrels of malt beverage annually on **July 1, 2028**. This means that during the 2028 session, the legislature will have to proactively repeal the sunset in order to extend the authority for self-distribution. **** The Senate committee is considering whether to delete this section. The VBA has expressed support for deleting this section.****

Section 8: This is another technical change to the law to increase the payment methods available to applicants of a solicitor’s license.

Section 9: Repeals the sunset on allowing a “an art gallery, retail establishment, public library, or museum” to be issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

→ **Headlines of Note**

- [UVM Medical Center is Losing \\$460,000 Every Day](#)
- [Prosecutor’s Problem Dog Bites Defense Attorney’s Face](#)
- [House education reform bill narrowly passes amid heavy criticism and some lawmakers’ unease](#)
- [Vermont Senate president pitches a statewide ban on guns in bars after proposal for Burlington falters](#)
- [Capitol Recap: House approves education reform bill that Scott plans to veto](#)
- [Lawmakers table Scott administration’s digital lottery plan](#)
- [As gas tax revenues stagnate, Vermont Senate eyes mileage-based fee for all vehicles](#)
- [Vermonters Yelled. Then Montpelier Listened on the Road Rule.](#)