

By: Flores

S.B. No. 246

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the delivery and direct shipment of certain alcoholic beverages to ultimate consumers; creating criminal offenses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 14, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended by adding Section 14.051 to read as follows:

Sec. 14.051. DIRECT SHIPMENT TO CONSUMERS. (a) The holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit may ship to an ultimate consumer, including an ultimate consumer located in a dry area, distilled spirits sold by the permit holder to the ultimate consumer under Section 14.05. Delivery must be by the holder of a carrier or consumer delivery permit.

(b) All distilled spirits shipped to an ultimate consumer by the holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit must be in a package that is clearly and conspicuously labeled showing that:

(1) the package contains distilled spirits; and

(2) the package may be delivered only to a person described by Subsection (c).

(c) Distilled spirits shipped by the holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit may not be delivered to any person other than:

(1) the person who purchased the distilled spirits;

(2) a recipient designated in advance by the purchaser; or

1 (3) a person at the delivery address who is 21 years of
2 age or older.

3 (d) Distilled spirits may be delivered only to a person who
4 is 21 years of age or older and only after the person accepting the
5 package:

6 (1) presents valid proof of identity and age; and

7 (2) personally signs a receipt acknowledging delivery
8 of the package.

9 (e) The holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit may
10 not:

11 (1) sell or ship distilled spirits to a minor;

12 (2) deliver distilled spirits to a consumer using a
13 carrier that does not hold a carrier permit or a consumer delivery
14 permit under this code; or

15 (3) deliver to a consumer in this state more than the
16 amount of distilled spirits allowed to be sold to the consumer under
17 Section 14.05(c).

18 SECTION 2. Section 16.09(a), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (a) The holder of a winery permit may ship wine to the
21 ultimate consumer, including ultimate consumers located in dry
22 areas. Delivery must be by the holder of a carrier or consumer
23 delivery permit.

24 SECTION 3. Section 41.01, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 41.01. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. (a) The holder of a
27 carrier permit may transport malt beverages and liquor into and out

1 of this state and between points within the state.

2 (b) The holder may transport malt beverages and liquor from
3 one wet area to another wet area across a dry area if that course of
4 transportation is necessary or convenient.

5 (c) The holder of a carrier permit who transports malt
6 beverages or liquor to the premises of a wholesaler, including to a
7 location from which the wholesaler is temporarily conducting
8 business under Section 109.62, shall provide to the consignee a
9 shipping invoice that clearly states:

10 (1) the name and address of the consignor and
11 consignee;

12 (2) the origin and destination of the shipment; and

13 (3) any other information required by this code or
14 commission rule, including the brands, sizes of containers, types,
15 and quantities of malt beverages and liquor contained in the
16 shipment.

17 SECTION 4. Section 41.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 41.04. REQUIRED INFORMATION. The holder of a carrier
20 permit shall furnish information required by the commission
21 concerning the transportation of malt beverages and liquor.

22 SECTION 5. Subtitle A, Title 3, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
23 amended by adding Chapter 54A to read as follows:

24 CHAPTER 54A. OUT-OF-STATE DISTILLERY DIRECT SHIPPER'S PERMIT

25 Sec. 54A.01. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. The holder of an
26 out-of-state distillery direct shipper's permit may sell and
27 deliver distilled spirits that are produced or bottled by the

1 permittee to an ultimate consumer located in the State of Texas.

2 Delivery must be by the holder of a carrier permit.

3 Sec. 54A.02. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES. The holder of an
4 out-of-state distillery direct shipper's permit may not:

5 (1) sell or ship distilled spirits to a minor;

6 (2) deliver distilled spirits to a consumer using a
7 carrier that does not hold a carrier permit under this code;

8 (3) deliver distilled spirits within a 30-day period
9 to the same consumer in this state in an amount that exceeds the
10 individual authorization under Section 14.05(c); or

11 (4) sell distilled spirits to ultimate consumers for
12 off-premises consumption in an annual amount that exceeds the
13 annual authorization under Section 14.05(b).

14 Sec. 54A.03. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERMIT. An out-of-state
15 distillery direct shipper's permit may only be issued to a person
16 who:

17 (1) does not hold a distiller's and rectifier's permit
18 in the State of Texas;

19 (2) operates a distillery located in the United States
20 and holds all state and federal permits necessary to operate the
21 distillery;

22 (3) holds a Texas sales tax permit;

23 (4) expressly submits to personal jurisdiction in
24 Texas state and federal courts and expressly submits to venue in
25 Travis County, Texas, as proper venue for any proceedings that may
26 be initiated by or against the commission; and

27 (5) does not directly or indirectly have any financial

1 interest in a Texas wholesaler or retailer as those terms are used
2 in Section 102.01.

3 Sec. 54A.04. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) All
4 distilled spirits sold or shipped by the holder of an out-of-state
5 distillery direct shipper's permit must be in a package that is
6 clearly and conspicuously labeled showing that:

- 7 (1) the package contains distilled spirits; and
8 (2) the package may only be delivered to a person
9 described by Subsection (b).

10 (b) Distilled spirits sold or shipped by a holder of an
11 out-of-state distillery direct shipper's permit may not be
12 delivered to any person other than:

- 13 (1) the person who purchased the distilled spirits;
14 (2) a recipient designated in advance by the
15 purchaser; or
16 (3) a person at the delivery address who is 21 years of
17 age or older.

18 (c) Distilled spirits may be delivered only to a person who
19 is 21 years of age or older and only after the person accepting the
20 package:

- 21 (1) presents valid proof of identity and age; and
22 (2) personally signs a receipt acknowledging delivery
23 of the package.

24 Sec. 54A.05. REPORTS AND RECORDKEEPING. (a) The holder of
25 an out-of-state distillery direct shipper's permit shall maintain
26 records of all sales and deliveries made under the permit.

27 (b) The holder of an out-of-state distillery direct

1 shipper's permit shall maintain complete sales and delivery records
2 for all sales and deliveries made under the permit for at least five
3 years from the date of sale. These records shall be made available
4 on request for inspection by the commission or any other
5 appropriate state agency.

6 (c) The commission shall establish rules requiring the
7 holder of an out-of-state distillery direct shipper's permit to
8 periodically file reports providing the commission with such
9 information as the commission may determine is needed to more
10 efficiently and effectively enforce the state laws applicable to
11 the permit holder.

12 Sec. 54A.06. LIABILITY FOR AND PAYMENT OF TAXES. (a) Sales
13 made by the holder of an out-of-state distillery direct shipper's
14 permit shall be considered to have been made in the State of Texas
15 for delivery in the State of Texas.

16 (b) The holder of an out-of-state distillery direct
17 shipper's permit shall be responsible for paying the following
18 state taxes related to sales and deliveries made under this
19 chapter:

20 (1) excise taxes on the distilled spirits sold,
21 payable at the same rate and in the same manner as if the permittee
22 were a Texas distiller or rectifier located in Texas; and

23 (2) state sales and use taxes all payable at the same
24 rate and in the same manner as if the permittee were a Texas
25 distiller or rectifier located in Texas.

26 (c) An ultimate consumer who purchases distilled spirits
27 from the holder of an out-of-state distillery direct shipper's

1 permit under this chapter shall be considered to be purchasing the
2 distilled spirits from a Texas permittee and shall not be charged
3 the administrative fee for personal imports set forth in Section
4 107.07.

5 Sec. 54A.07. RESALE PROHIBITED. A consumer purchasing
6 distilled spirits from the holder of an out-of-state distillery
7 direct shipper's permit may not resell the distilled spirits, and
8 any such distilled spirit that is resold is an illicit beverage as
9 defined by Section 1.04.

10 Sec. 54A.08. DELIVERY AREAS. Distilled spirits shipped
11 under this chapter may be delivered to persons located in a dry
12 area.

13 Sec. 54A.09. LABEL APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED. If the holder of
14 an out-of-state distillery direct shipper's permit has satisfied
15 all federal label approval requirements for a particular brand of
16 distilled spirits, then no further label approval shall be required
17 by the commission.

18 Sec. 54A.10. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules and
19 forms necessary to implement this chapter.

20 Sec. 54A.11. PENALTY FOR SHIPPING WITHOUT PERMIT. Any
21 person who does not hold an out-of-state distillery direct
22 shipper's permit who sells and ships alcohol from outside of Texas
23 to an ultimate consumer in Texas commits on first offense a Class B
24 misdemeanor, on second offense a Class A misdemeanor, and on third
25 offense a state jail felony.

26 SECTION 6. Section 57.01, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 57.01. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. (a) The holder of a
2 consumer delivery permit may contract with or employ a driver for
3 the delivery of an alcoholic beverage from the premises of the
4 holder of a retailer's or manufacturer's permit or license
5 described by Subsection (b) to an ultimate consumer located in an
6 area where the sale of the beverage is legal.

7 (b) An alcoholic beverage may be delivered under this
8 section only if the alcoholic beverage is sold or served to the
9 ultimate consumer by the holder of a:

- 10 (1) package store permit;
- 11 (2) wine only package store permit;
- 12 (3) wine and beer retailer's permit;
- 13 (4) wine and beer retailer's off-premise permit;
- 14 (5) retail dealer's on-premise license;
- 15 (6) retail dealer's off-premise license;
- 16 (7) mixed beverage permit authorized to deliver
17 alcoholic beverages under Section 28.1001; ~~[or]~~
- 18 (8) private club permit authorized to deliver
19 alcoholic beverages under Section 32.155;
- 20 (9) distiller's and rectifier's permit;
- 21 (10) winery permit; or
- 22 (11) brewer's license.

23 SECTION 7. Section 57.02(b), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (b) The holder of a consumer delivery permit may make
26 deliveries of alcoholic beverages:

- 27 (1) only in response to bona fide orders placed by the

1 consumer under Section 57.01; and

2 (2) only in areas where the sale of the beverages is
3 legal in:

4 (A) the county in which the premises of the
5 retailer or manufacturer making the sale is located;

6 (B) the city or town in which the premises of the
7 retailer or manufacturer making the sale is located, if the
8 retailer or manufacturer is located in a city or town; or

9 (C) an area not further than two miles beyond the
10 municipal boundary of the city or town in which the premises of the
11 retailer or manufacturer is located, if applicable.

12 SECTION 8. Section 57.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 57.04. ELIGIBILITY FOR PERMIT. A consumer delivery
15 permit may be issued to:

16 (1) a person who contracts with or employs individuals
17 for the delivery of retail goods to consumers, other than the holder
18 of a permit or license in the [~~manufacturing or~~] wholesale tier of
19 the alcoholic beverage industry; or

20 (2) the holder of a permit or license described by
21 Section 57.01(b).

22 SECTION 9. Section 57.06(c), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (c) An alcoholic beverage may be delivered under this
25 chapter outside the hours of operation of the retailer or
26 manufacturer from which the delivery is being made only if the
27 delivery driver:

1 (1) receives the beverage from the retailer or
2 manufacturer during the retailer's or manufacturer's hours of legal
3 sale; and

4 (2) completes the delivery to the consumer in a
5 reasonable amount of time after leaving the retailer's or
6 manufacturer's premises.

7 SECTION 10. Section 57.07, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 57.07. RETAILER AND MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBILITY. (a)
10 A retailer's or manufacturer's responsibilities under this code
11 regarding delivery of an alcoholic beverage to an ultimate consumer
12 are considered satisfied at the time the retailer or manufacturer
13 transfers possession of an alcoholic beverage to the consumer
14 delivery permittee or a delivery driver employed by, contracted
15 with, or acting on behalf of the holder of a consumer delivery
16 permit.

17 (b) An action by a consumer delivery permittee or by a
18 delivery driver is not attributable to the retailer or manufacturer
19 with regard to:

20 (1) providing, selling, or serving alcohol to a minor
21 or to an intoxicated individual;

22 (2) the delivery of alcohol in a dry or otherwise
23 illegal area, unless the retailer or manufacturer has contractually
24 agreed to retain responsibility for ensuring that deliveries are
25 not directed to a dry or otherwise illegal area; or

26 (3) any other provision of this code.

27 (c) A retailer or manufacturer:

1 (1) is not required to verify that the consumer
2 delivery permittee or the delivery driver has received delivery
3 driver training under Section 57.09(a)(1); and

4 (2) may not be held responsible for any reason under
5 statutory or common law for the actions of a consumer delivery
6 permittee or a delivery driver acting on behalf of a consumer
7 delivery permittee.

8 SECTION 11. Chapter 62, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended
9 by adding Section 62.123 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 62.123. DIRECT SHIPMENT TO CONSUMERS. (a) The holder
11 of a brewer's license may ship to an ultimate consumer, including an
12 ultimate consumer located in a dry area, malt beverages sold by the
13 license holder to the ultimate consumer under Section 62.122(a)(2).
14 Delivery must be by the holder of a carrier or consumer delivery
15 permit.

16 (b) All malt beverages shipped to an ultimate consumer by
17 the holder of a brewer's license must be in a package that is
18 clearly and conspicuously labeled showing that:

19 (1) the package contains malt beverages; and

20 (2) the package may be delivered only to a person
21 described by Subsection (c).

22 (c) Malt beverages shipped by the holder of a brewer's
23 license may not be delivered to any person other than:

24 (1) the person who purchased the malt beverages;

25 (2) a recipient designated in advance by the
26 purchaser; or

27 (3) a person at the delivery address who is 21 years of

1 age or older.

2 (d) Malt beverages may be delivered only to a person who is
3 21 years of age or older and only after the person accepting the
4 package:

5 (1) presents valid proof of identity and age; and

6 (2) personally signs a receipt acknowledging delivery
7 of the package.

8 (e) The holder of a brewer's license may not:

9 (1) sell or ship malt beverages to a minor;

10 (2) deliver malt beverages to a consumer using a
11 carrier that does not hold a carrier permit or a consumer delivery
12 permit under this code; or

13 (3) deliver to the same consumer in this state more
14 than 288 fluid ounces of malt beverages per calendar day.

15 SECTION 12. Subtitle B, Title 3, Alcoholic Beverage Code,
16 is amended by adding Chapter 63A to read as follows:

17 CHAPTER 63A. OUT-OF-STATE BREWERY DIRECT SHIPPER'S LICENSE

18 Sec. 63A.01. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. The holder of an
19 out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license may sell and deliver
20 malt beverages that are produced or bottled by the licensee to an
21 ultimate consumer located in the State of Texas. Delivery must be
22 by the holder of a carrier permit.

23 Sec. 63A.02. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES. The holder of an
24 out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license may not:

25 (1) sell or ship malt beverages to a minor;

26 (2) deliver malt beverages to a consumer using a
27 carrier that does not hold a carrier permit under this code;

1 (3) deliver malt beverages to the same consumer on the
2 same calendar day in an amount that exceeds the daily authorization
3 under Section 62.122(a-1); or

4 (4) sell malt beverages to ultimate consumers in this
5 state in an annual amount that exceeds the annual authorization
6 under Section 62.122(b).

7 Sec. 63A.03. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE. An out-of-state
8 brewery direct shipper's license may only be issued to a person who:

9 (1) does not hold a brewer's license in the State of
10 Texas;

11 (2) operates a brewery located in the United States
12 and holds all state and federal permits necessary to operate the
13 brewery;

14 (3) holds a Texas sales tax permit;

15 (4) expressly submits to personal jurisdiction in
16 Texas state and federal courts and expressly submits to venue in
17 Travis County, Texas, as proper venue for any proceedings that may
18 be initiated by or against the commission; and

19 (5) does not directly or indirectly have any financial
20 interest in a Texas wholesaler or retailer as those terms are used
21 in Section 102.01.

22 Sec. 63A.04. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) All malt
23 beverages sold or shipped by the holder of an out-of-state brewery
24 direct shipper's license must be in a package that is clearly and
25 conspicuously labeled showing that:

26 (1) the package contains malt beverages; and

27 (2) the package may only be delivered to a person

1 described by Subsection (b).

2 (b) Malt beverages sold or shipped by a holder of an
3 out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license may not be delivered
4 to any person other than:

5 (1) the person who purchased the malt beverages;

6 (2) a recipient designated in advance by the
7 purchaser; or

8 (3) a person at the delivery address who is 21 years of
9 age or older.

10 (c) Malt beverages may be delivered only to a person who is
11 21 years of age or older and only after the person accepting the
12 package:

13 (1) presents valid proof of identity and age; and

14 (2) personally signs a receipt acknowledging delivery
15 of the package.

16 Sec. 63A.05. REPORTS AND RECORDKEEPING. (a) The holder of
17 an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license shall maintain
18 records of all sales and deliveries made under the license.

19 (b) The holder of an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's
20 license shall maintain complete sales and delivery records for all
21 sales and deliveries made under the license for at least five years
22 from the date of sale. These records shall be made available on
23 request for inspection by the commission or any other appropriate
24 state agency.

25 (c) The commission shall establish rules requiring the
26 holder of an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license to
27 periodically file reports providing the commission with such

1 information as the commission may determine is needed to more
2 efficiently and effectively enforce the state laws applicable to
3 the license holder.

4 Sec. 63A.06. LIABILITY FOR AND PAYMENT OF TAXES. (a) Sales
5 made by the holder of an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's
6 license shall be considered to have been made in the State of Texas
7 for delivery in the State of Texas.

8 (b) The holder of an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's
9 license shall be responsible for paying the following state taxes
10 related to sales and deliveries made under this chapter:

11 (1) excise taxes on the malt beverages sold, payable
12 at the same rate and in the same manner as if the licensee were a
13 Texas brewer located in Texas; and

14 (2) state sales and use taxes all payable at the same
15 rate and in the same manner as if the licensee were a Texas brewer
16 located in Texas.

17 (c) An ultimate consumer who purchases malt beverages from
18 the holder of an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license
19 under this chapter shall be considered to be purchasing the malt
20 beverages from a Texas licensee and shall not be charged the
21 administrative fee for personal imports set forth in Section
22 [107.07](#).

23 Sec. 63A.07. RESALE PROHIBITED. A consumer purchasing malt
24 beverages from the holder of an out-of-state brewery direct
25 shipper's license may not resell the malt beverages, and any such
26 malt beverage that is resold is an illicit beverage as defined by
27 Section [1.04](#).

1 Sec. 63A.08. DELIVERY AREAS. Malt beverages shipped under
2 this chapter may be delivered to persons located in a dry area.

3 Sec. 63A.09. LABEL APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED. If the holder of
4 an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's license has satisfied all
5 federal label approval requirements for a particular brand of malt
6 beverages, then no further label approval shall be required by the
7 commission.

8 Sec. 63A.10. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules and
9 forms necessary to implement this chapter.

10 Sec. 63A.11. PENALTY FOR SHIPPING WITHOUT LICENSE. Any
11 person who does not hold an out-of-state brewery direct shipper's
12 license who sells and ships alcohol from outside of Texas to an
13 ultimate consumer in Texas commits on first offense a Class B
14 misdemeanor, on second offense a Class A misdemeanor, and on third
15 offense a state jail felony.

16 SECTION 13. Chapter 74, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended
17 by adding Section 74.12 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 74.12. DIRECT SHIPMENT TO CONSUMERS. (a) The holder
19 of a brewpub license may ship to an ultimate consumer, including an
20 ultimate consumer located in a dry area, malt beverages sold by the
21 license holder to the ultimate consumer under Section 74.01(a)(2).
22 Delivery must be by the holder of a carrier or consumer delivery
23 permit.

24 (b) All malt beverages shipped to an ultimate consumer by
25 the holder of a brewpub license must be in a package that is clearly
26 and conspicuously labeled showing that:

27 (1) the package contains malt beverages; and

1 (2) the package may be delivered only to a person
2 described by Subsection (c).

3 (c) Malt beverages shipped by the holder of a brewpub
4 license may not be delivered to any person other than:

5 (1) the person who purchased the malt beverages;

6 (2) a recipient designated in advance by the
7 purchaser; or

8 (3) a person at the delivery address who is 21 years of
9 age or older.

10 (d) Malt beverages may be delivered only to a person who is
11 21 years of age or older and only after the person accepting the
12 package:

13 (1) presents valid proof of identity and age; and

14 (2) personally signs a receipt acknowledging delivery
15 of the package.

16 (e) The holder of a brewpub license may not:

17 (1) sell or ship malt beverages to a minor; or

18 (2) deliver malt beverages to a consumer using a
19 carrier that does not hold a carrier permit or a consumer delivery
20 permit under this code.

21 SECTION 14. Section 107.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 107.04. DELIVERY OF MALT BEVERAGES IN DRY AREA. (a)
24 Except as provided by Subsection (b), a [A] common carrier may not
25 deliver malt beverages in a dry area unless the malt beverages are
26 consigned to a general distributor's licensee who has previously
27 stated that the licensee intends to transport the malt beverages to

1 a licensed place of business in a wet area. A common carrier who
2 transports malt beverages to a distributor in a dry area shall
3 comply strictly with this section and Section 107.02.

4 (b) A common carrier may deliver malt beverages to an
5 ultimate consumer located in a dry area as authorized by Section
6 62.123, 63A.08, or 74.12.

7 SECTION 15. Section 107.05(b), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (b) This section does not apply to the transportation of
10 liquor into the state as authorized by Chapter 54, Chapter 54A, or
11 Section 107.07 [~~of this code~~].

12 SECTION 16. Section 107.06(c), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (c) This section does not apply to:

15 (1) the importation or transportation of military malt
16 beverages consigned to a military installation; or

17 (2) [~~to~~] the importation of malt beverages as
18 authorized under Chapter 63A or Section 107.07.

19 SECTION 17. Section 107.07(f), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (f) Except as provided by Chapter 54, Chapter 54A, or
22 Chapter 63A, any person in the business of selling alcoholic
23 beverages in another state or country who ships or causes to be
24 shipped any alcoholic beverage directly to any Texas resident under
25 this section is in violation of this code.

26 SECTION 18. Section 14.05(d), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
27 repealed.

1 SECTION 19. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.