

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 431—ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
BUSTAMANTE ADAMS

MARCH 27, 2017

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing alcoholic beverages.  
(BDR 52-1018)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to alcoholic beverages; revising provisions governing brew pubs; revising provisions governing a supplier of alcoholic beverages; revising provisions prohibiting a wholesaler dealer of alcoholic beverages from investing money in a retail liquor store; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law authorizes a person who is licensed to operate a brew pub to  
2 operate more than one such brew pub in a county but limits the person to  
3 manufacturing not more than 15,000 barrels for all of the brew pubs the person  
4 operates in that county in any calendar year. (NRS 597.230) **Section 4** of this bill  
5 limits a person who operates a brew pub to two locations for the brew pub in this  
6 State and increases the number of barrels of malt beverages that such a person may  
7 manufacture during a calendar year to 20,000 barrels. **Section 4** further prohibits a  
8 person who operates a brew pub from selling at retail more than 2,000 barrels of  
9 malt beverages per calendar year for consumption off the premises of the brew pub.  
10 **Section 10** of this bill specifies that a person licensed to operate a brew pub may  
11 not engage in any other activity for which a license is required unless the person  
12 holds the license for that activity.

13 Existing law defines the term “supplier” for the purposes of the regulation of  
14 alcoholic beverages and imposes certain requirements on a supplier of alcoholic  
15 beverages. (Chapters 369 and 597 of NRS) **Sections 1 and 9** of this bill include  
16 breweries and brew pubs located in this State within the definition of “supplier”  
17 and, thus, impose on such breweries and brew pubs the requirements of existing  
18 law applicable to a supplier. **Section 2** of this bill exempts certain smaller suppliers  
19 from the requirement to allow a wholesaler a period of 60 days to correct any  
20 failure to comply with the terms of a franchise agreement between the supplier and



21 the wholesaler. **Section 3** of this bill revises certain prohibitions imposed on a  
22 supplier by prohibiting a supplier from engaging in certain conduct in relation to a  
23 wholesaler who sells, distributes, markets, advertises or promotes the alcoholic  
24 beverages produced by the supplier.

25 Existing law prohibits a wholesale dealer of alcoholic beverages from investing  
26 money, directly or indirectly in a retail liquor store. (NRS 369.485) **Section 12** of  
27 this bill prohibits the wholesale dealer from making such an investment through a  
28 subsidiary or agent.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 597.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 597.140 "Supplier" means any person, partnership, corporation  
3 or other form of business enterprise engaged in business as a  
4 manufacturer, distiller, rectifier, brewer, *brew pub*, importer,  
5 vintner, broker or agent therefor, which distributes any or all of its  
6 brands of malt beverages, distilled spirits and wines, or all of them,  
7 through licensed wholesalers in this state.

8 **Sec. 2.** NRS 597.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
9 597.160 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, if  
10 more than one franchise for the same brand or brands of malt  
11 beverages, distilled spirits and wines, or all of them, is granted to  
12 different wholesalers in this state, it is a violation of NRS 597.120 to  
13 597.180, inclusive, for any supplier to discriminate between such  
14 wholesalers with respect to any of the terms, provisions and  
15 conditions of these franchises.

16 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and  
17 notwithstanding the terms, provisions or conditions of any franchise,  
18 a supplier shall not unilaterally terminate or refuse to continue any  
19 franchise with a wholesaler or cause a wholesaler to resign from that  
20 franchise unless the supplier has first established good cause for that  
21 termination, noncontinuance or causing of that resignation. This  
22 subsection does not apply to a supplier who sells less than 2,000  
23 barrels of malt beverages, less than 250 cases of distilled spirits or  
24 less than 2,000 cases of wine in this state in any calendar year, or  
25 who operates a winery pursuant to NRS 597.240.

26 3. ~~1A~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a*  
27 wholesaler may, within 60 days after he or she receives a notice  
28 required pursuant to NRS 597.155, correct any failure to comply  
29 with the terms, provisions and conditions of the franchise alleged by  
30 the supplier. *This subsection does not apply to a supplier who sells*  
31 *less than 2,000 barrels of malt beverages, less than 250 cases of*  
32 *distilled spirits or less than 2,000 cases of wine in this State in any*  
33 *calendar year, or who operates a winery pursuant to NRS 597.240.*



1 4. Unless otherwise specified by contract between the supplier  
2 and wholesaler, a supplier shall not grant more than one franchise to  
3 a wholesaler for any brand of alcoholic beverage in a marketing  
4 area.

5 **Sec. 3.** NRS 597.162 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 597.162 A supplier shall not:

7 1. Prohibit a wholesaler from selling an alcoholic beverage of  
8 any other supplier;

9 2. *Prevent a wholesaler from using best efforts to sell,  
10 market, advertise or promote an alcoholic beverage of any other  
11 supplier;*

12 3. *Provide any reward or penalty to, or in any other way  
13 condition its relationship with, a wholesaler based upon the  
14 amount of sales the wholesaler makes of an alcoholic beverage of  
15 any other supplier;*

16 4. *Disapprove a wholesaler's selection of a general manager  
17 or successor general manager based on the wholesaler's sales,  
18 marketing, advertising, promotion or retail placement of an  
19 alcoholic beverage of any other supplier;*

20 5. *Require a wholesaler to report to the supplier any of the  
21 wholesaler's financial information associated with the purchase,  
22 sale or distribution of an alcoholic beverage of any other supplier;*

23 6. Fix or maintain the price at which a wholesaler may resell an  
24 alcoholic beverage purchased from the supplier;

25 ~~3-~~ 7. Require a wholesaler to pay to the supplier all or any  
26 portion of the difference in the suggested retail price of an alcoholic  
27 beverage and the actual price at which the wholesaler sells the  
28 alcoholic beverage;

29 ~~4-~~ 8. Require a wholesaler to accept delivery of any alcoholic  
30 beverage or any other item that is not voluntarily ordered by the  
31 wholesaler or otherwise not required under the franchise between  
32 the supplier and wholesaler or is in violation of any levels of  
33 inventory that are mutually agreed upon in writing by the supplier  
34 and wholesaler;

35 ~~5-~~ 9. Prohibit or restrain, directly or indirectly, a wholesaler  
36 from participating in an organization that represents the interests of  
37 wholesalers for any lawful purpose; ~~6-~~

38 10. *Discriminate against, penalize or otherwise retaliate  
39 against a wholesaler because the wholesaler raises, alleges or  
40 otherwise brings to the attention of the Department of Taxation an  
41 actual, potential or perceived violation of this chapter; or*

42 ~~6-~~ 11. Require a wholesaler to participate in or contribute to  
43 any advertising fund or promotional activity that:

44 (a) Is not used for advertising or a promotional activity in the  
45 marketing area of the wholesaler; or



1 (b) Requires a contribution by the wholesaler that exceeds any  
2 amount specified for that purpose in the franchise.

3 **Sec. 4.** NRS 597.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 597.230 1. In any county, a person may operate a brew pub:

5 (a) In any redevelopment area established in that county  
6 pursuant to chapter 279 of NRS;

7 (b) In any historic district established in that county pursuant to  
8 NRS 384.005;

9 (c) In any retail liquor store as that term is defined in NRS  
10 369.090; or

11 (d) In any other area in the county designated by the board of  
12 county commissioners for the operation of brew pubs. In a city  
13 which is located in that county, a person may operate a brew pub in  
14 any area in the city designated by the governing body of that city for  
15 the operation of brew pubs.

16 ➔ A person who operates one or ~~more~~ **two** brew pubs may not  
17 manufacture more than ~~15,000~~ **20,000** barrels of malt beverages  
18 for all the brew pubs he or she operates in that county in any  
19 calendar year.

20 2. The premises of any brew pub operated pursuant to this  
21 section must be conspicuously identified as a "brew pub."

22 3. *A person who operates a brew pub pursuant to this section*  
23 *is limited to two locations for the brew pub in this State.*

24 4. A person who operates a brew pub pursuant to this section  
25 may, upon obtaining a license pursuant to chapter 369 of NRS and  
26 complying with any other applicable governmental requirements:

27 (a) Manufacture and store malt beverages on the premises of the  
28 brew pub and:

29 (1) Sell and transport the malt beverages manufactured on  
30 the premises to a person holding a valid wholesale wine and liquor  
31 dealer's license or wholesale beer dealer's license issued pursuant to  
32 chapter 369 of NRS.

33 (2) Donate for charitable or nonprofit purposes and transport  
34 the malt beverages manufactured on the premises in accordance  
35 with the terms and conditions of a special permit for the  
36 transportation of the malt beverages obtained from the Department  
37 of Taxation pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 369.450.

38 (b) Sell at retail malt beverages manufactured on or off the  
39 premises of the brew pub for consumption on the premises.

40 (c) Sell at retail in packages sealed on the premises of the brew  
41 pub, malt beverages, including malt beverages in unpasteurized  
42 form, manufactured on the premises for consumption off the  
43 premises. *The amount of malt beverages sold for consumption off*  
44 *the premises of the brew pub may not exceed 2,000 barrels in any*  
45 *calendar year.*



1       **5. As used in this section, the term “package” does not**  
2 **include a keg.**

3       **Sec. 5.** Chapter 369 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
4 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 6 and 7 of this act.

5       **Sec. 6. “Brew pub” has the meaning ascribed to it in**  
6 **NRS 597.200.**

7       **Sec. 7. “Brewery” means an establishment which**  
8 **manufactures malt beverages but does not sell those malt**  
9 **beverages at retail.**

10       **Sec. 8.** NRS 369.035 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
11 369.035 1. As used in this chapter, “instructional wine-  
12 making facility” means an instructional wine-making facility  
13 operated pursuant to NRS 597.245.

14       2. For the purposes of this chapter:

15       (a) A person who operates an instructional wine-making facility  
16 is not a wine maker or a supplier, brewer, **brew pub**, distiller,  
17 manufacturer, producer, vintner, bottler, wholesaler, wholesale  
18 dealer, retailer or retail dealer of wine.

19       (b) An instructional wine-making facility is not a winery or a  
20 retail liquor store.

21       **Sec. 9.** NRS 369.111 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
22 369.111 As used in this chapter, “supplier” means, with respect  
23 to liquor which is brewed, distilled, fermented, manufactured,  
24 rectified, produced or bottled:

25       1. Outside the United States:

26       (a) The brewer, distiller, manufacturer, producer, rectifier,  
27 vintner or bottler of the liquor, or his or her designated agent; or

28       (b) The owner of the liquor when it is first transported into any  
29 area under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, if the  
30 brewer, distiller, manufacturer, rectifier, producer, vintner or bottler  
31 of the liquor, or a designated agent of such a person, has not  
32 designated an importer to import the liquor into this State;

33       2. Within the United States but outside this State, the brewer,  
34 distiller, manufacturer, rectifier, producer, vintner or bottler of the  
35 liquor, or his or her designated agent; or

36       3. Within this State, the **brewery**, **brew pub**, distiller,  
37 manufacturer, rectifier, producer or bottler of the liquor or his or her  
38 designated agent.

39       **Sec. 10.** NRS 369.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
40 369.180 1. In addition to the limitations imposed by NRS  
41 597.210 and 597.220, a person shall not:

42       (a) Import liquors into this State unless the person first secures  
43 an importer’s license or permit from this State.



1 (b) Engage in business as a wholesale dealer of wines and  
2 liquors in this State unless the person first secures a wholesale wine  
3 and liquor dealer's license from this State.

4 (c) Engage in business as a wholesale dealer of beer in this State  
5 unless the person first secures a wholesale beer dealer's license from  
6 this State.

7 (d) Operate a winery in this State or export wine from this State  
8 unless the person first secures a wine-maker's license from this  
9 State.

10 (e) Operate an instructional wine-making facility in this State  
11 unless the person first secures a license for the instructional wine-  
12 making facility from this State.

13 (f) Operate a brewery in this State unless the person first secures  
14 a brewer's license from this State.

15 (g) Operate a brew pub in this State unless the person first  
16 secures a brew pub's license from this State.

17 (h) Operate a craft distillery in this State unless the person first  
18 secures a craft distiller's license from this State.

19 2. *A person who holds a license for a brew pub:*

20 (a) *May engage in any activity authorized by NRS 597.230.*

21 (b) *May not engage in any other activity for which a license is*  
22 *required pursuant to this chapter, unless the person holds the*  
23 *appropriate license for that activity.*

24 3. A person who holds a license for an instructional wine-  
25 making facility:

26 (a) May engage in any activity authorized by NRS 597.245.

27 (b) May not engage in any other activity for which a license is  
28 required pursuant to this chapter, unless the person holds the  
29 appropriate license for that activity.

30 ~~3.~~ 4. A person who holds a license for a craft distillery:

31 (a) May engage in any activity authorized by NRS 597.235.

32 (b) May not engage in any other activity for which a license is  
33 required pursuant to this chapter, unless the person holds the  
34 appropriate license for that activity.

35 ~~4.~~ 5. As used in this section:

36 (a) ~~“Brew pub” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 597.200.~~

37 ~~—(b) “Brewery” means an establishment which manufactures malt~~  
38 ~~beverages but does not sell those malt beverages at retail.~~

39 ~~—(c) “Craft distillery” has the meaning ascribed to it in~~  
40 ~~NRS 597.200.~~

41 ~~(d)~~ (b) “Malt beverage” has the meaning ascribed to it in  
42 NRS 597.200.

43 **Sec. 11.** NRS 369.382 is hereby amended to read as follows:

44 369.382 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 369.386,  
45 369.415 , **597.230** and 597.235, a supplier shall not engage in the



1 business of importing, wholesaling or retailing alcoholic beverages  
2 in this State.

3 **Sec. 12.** NRS 369.485 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
4 369.485 1. The Legislature hereby declares:

5 (a) That it is a privilege to engage in the business of selling  
6 intoxicating liquor at the wholesale or retail level in this state;

7 (b) That the Legislature finds it necessary to impose certain  
8 restrictions on the exercise of such privilege; and

9 (c) That it is the policy of this state to preclude the acquisition or  
10 control of any retail liquor store by a wholesale liquor dealer.

11 2. As used in this section, unless the context requires  
12 otherwise:

13 (a) "Delinquent payment" means the failure of a retail liquor  
14 store to make payment to a wholesale dealer for liquor on or before  
15 the 15th day of the month following delivery by the wholesale  
16 dealer.

17 (b) "Payment" means the full legal discharge of the debt by the  
18 wholesale dealer's receipt of cash or its equivalent, including  
19 ordinary and recognized means for discharge of indebtedness  
20 excepting notes, pledges or other promises to pay at a future date. A  
21 postdated check, a check not promptly deposited for collection or a  
22 check dishonored on presentation for payment does not constitute  
23 payment.

24 (c) "Payment in cash" means the full legal discharge of the debt  
25 by delivery of cash, money order, certified check or a cashier's or  
26 similar bank officer's check.

27 3. A wholesale dealer shall not:

28 (a) Loan any money or other thing of value to a retail liquor  
29 store.

30 (b) Invest money, directly or indirectly, *including through a*  
31 *subsidiary or agent*, in a retail liquor store.

32 (c) Furnish or provide any premises, building, bar or equipment  
33 to a retail liquor store.

34 (d) Participate, directly or indirectly, in the operation of the  
35 business of a retail liquor store.

36 (e) Sell liquor to a retail liquor store except for payment on or  
37 before delivery or on terms requiring payment by the retail liquor  
38 store before or on the 10th day of the month following delivery of  
39 such liquor to it by the wholesale dealer.

40 (f) Sell liquor to a retail liquor store which is delinquent in  
41 payment to such wholesale dealer except for payment in cash on or  
42 before delivery.

43 4. On the 15th day of the month following the delivery of  
44 liquor and on the 15th day of each month thereafter, the wholesale



1 dealer shall charge a retail liquor store which is delinquent a service  
2 charge of 1.5 percent of the amount of the unpaid balance.

3 5. The Department may impose the following penalties on a  
4 wholesale dealer who violates any of the provisions of this section  
5 within any 24-month period:

6 (a) For the first violation a penalty of not more than \$500.

7 (b) For the second violation a penalty of not more than \$1,000.

8 (c) For the third and any subsequent violation a penalty of not  
9 more than \$5,000 or by a license suspension, or by both such  
10 penalty and suspension.

11 6. The Department may, upon its own motion, and shall, upon  
12 the verified written complaint of any wholesale dealer, investigate  
13 the possible violation of any of the provisions of this section by any  
14 wholesale dealer.

15 **Sec. 13.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval  
16 for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any other  
17 administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of  
18 this act and on July 1, 2017, for all other purposes.

