

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

HB 1765-FN, enabling wine and beverage manufacturers to offer tastings of and sell products of certain New Hampshire wine and beverage manufacturers.

Hearing Date: March 31, 2026

Time Opened: 11:01 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:11 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Innis, Ricciardi, Murphy, McGough, Fenton and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill enables wine and beverage manufacturers to offer tastings of and to sell products of certain New Hampshire wine and beverage manufacturers.

Sponsors:
Rep. Hunt

Who supports the bill: 42 individuals were in support. Full sign in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Aaron Jones (aaron.jones@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: 1 individual was neutral. Full sign in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Aaron Jones (aaron.jones@gc.nh.gov).

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative John Hunt

- Over the years, beverage manufacturers have been allowed to offer tastings and charge for them.
- Representative Hunt said the beer tax has declined, not grown.
- This bill would allow manufacturers to offer products, such as beer and wine from New Hampshire-based businesses, to their customers.

Erika Rosenfeld, Owner, Post & Beam Brewery, and President, New Hampshire Brewers Association

- This bill would allow manufacturers who do not hold a restaurant license to serve other types of alcoholic beverages, excluding liquor, that are made in New Hampshire. Currently, manufacturers can only serve their own products.
- Allowing other New Hampshire-based beverages to be served provided an opportunity for growth, allowed manufacturers to bring in the non-beer drinking crowd, and allowed small businesses to support each other.
- Ms. Rosenfeld said out-of-state consumers are accustomed to visiting taprooms in their states and receiving an entire variety.
- Ms. Rosenfeld said this bill would benefit businesses, consumers, and other stakeholders like distributors.
- This bill would help to expand self-distribution, and it would help to foster collaboration within the industry at a difficult time.
- Ms. Rosenfeld said this bill would help to boost their names by being in tasting rooms across the state.

Steve Allman, Owner, Canterbury Aleworks

- Mr. Allman said in terms of tourism, craft beverages were the face of New Hampshire.
- Mr. Allman supported efforts to create interstate parity to help small craft beverage businesses.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None