

SB 524 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

02/05/2026 0530s
14May2026... 1579h

2026 SESSION

26-2156
08/05

SENATE BILL **524**

AN ACT relative to the sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products and relative to the licensure and sale of certain liquor products.

SPONSORS: Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Rep. B. Boyd, Hills. 12; Rep. Hunt, Ches. 14; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 13; Rep. Presa, Hills. 12; Rep. Miles, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Commerce

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Creates a fine for a person under 21 years of age who violates the laws relative to use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products.

II. Changes what types of products businesses with different types of liquor licenses are able to sell.

III. Requires holders of the retail tobacco licenses, tobacco products manufacturers, and tobacco products wholesalers to report inventory, loss, purchases and sales to the liquor commission.

IV. Subjects licensees found in possession of selling or delivering illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products to an administrative fine equal to the amount of state tobacco tax that would have been due had the tobacco products been lawfully purchased and taxed.

V. Exempts the sale of alcoholic preparations not fit for use as a beverage from regulation under the title relative to alcoholic beverages.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to the sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or
alternative nicotine products and relative to the licensure and sale of certain
liquor products.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Liquor Licenses and Fees; Combination Licenses. Amend RSA 178:18, I-III to read as follows:

2 I. Off-premises licenses shall be issued only for grocery and drug stores. Such licenses shall
3 authorize the licensees to sell fortified wine, table wine, beverages, and specialty beverages for
4 consumption only off the premises designated in the licenses and not to other licensees for resale.
5 Such sale shall be made only in the immediate container in which the beverage, specialty beverage,
6 wine, or fortified wine was received by the off-premises combination licensee; except that in the case
7 of the holder of a wholesale distributor license, beverages and specialty beverages may be sold only
8 in such barrels, bottles, or other containers as the commission may by rule prescribe. ~~[Off-premises~~
9 ~~licenses may also authorize the licensee to sell tobacco products or e-cigarettes.]~~ There shall be no
10 restriction on the number of combination licenses held by any person. The license shall authorize
11 the licensee to transport and deliver beverages, specialty beverages, ~~[tobacco products, e-cigarettes,]~~
12 and table or fortified wines ordered from and sold by the licensee in vehicles operated under the
13 licensee's control or an employee's control.

14 II. All sales of ~~[tobacco, e-cigarettes,]~~ beverages, fortified wines, and table wine shall be
15 recorded on cash registers. No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year
16 without prior approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued
17 during the license year.

18 ~~[III. The commission may suspend the tobacco, e-cigarettes, or alcohol sales portion of the~~
19 ~~license separately under the provisions of RSA 179:57; any revocation shall revoke the entire~~
20 ~~license.]~~

21 2 Liquor Licenses and Fees; Retail Wine License. Amend RSA 178:19, I-IV to read as follows:

22 I. A retail wine license may be issued by the commission to any person operating a retail
23 outlet in this state which shall allow the licensee to sell ~~[tobacco products, e-cigarettes,]~~ fortified
24 wines~~[,]~~ and table wines directly to individuals at retail on the premises for consumption off the
25 premises; provided, however, that persons holding any license authorizing the sale of liquor or wine
26 by the glass under this chapter shall sell the wines authorized pursuant to this section in a separate
27 area of the premises from the areas licensed for on-premises consumption. A separate license shall
28 be required with respect to each place of business of an applicant. The license shall authorize the

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licensee to transport and deliver fortified and table wines ordered from and sold by the commission and sold by the licensee in vehicles operated under the licensee's control or an employee's control.

II. All sales of wine~~[, tobacco products, and e-cigarettes]~~ shall be recorded on cash registers. No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year without prior approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued during the license year.

III. On-premises licensees licensed under this chapter shall maintain separate rooms for storage, shelving, display~~[, and sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes,]~~ and fortified and table wine for consumption off the premises. Such rooms shall be equipped with at least one cash register which shall be capable of separately registering wine sales, and such rooms shall have an attendant at all times while open for business. Wine purchased for resale by virtue of the retail wine license shall be purchased on separate invoices from that wine intended for consumption in the dining room or lounge, and separate sales records shall be maintained for this purpose.

~~[IV. The commission may suspend the tobacco, e-cigarette, or alcohol sales portion of the license separately under the provisions of RSA 179:57; any revocation shall revoke the entire license.]~~

3 Liquor Licenses and Fees; Beer Specialty License. Amend RSA 178:19-d, I-VI to read as follows:

I. A beer specialty license may be issued by the commission to any person operating a retail outlet in this state the primary business of which is the sale of beer as defined in RSA 175:1. A beer specialty license shall allow the licensee to sell beverage~~[, and wine[, tobacco, and e-cigarettes]~~ products directly to individuals at retail on the premises for consumption off the premises; beer may be sold in such barrels, bottles, or other containers as the commission may by rule prescribe.

II. Beer specialty licensees shall maintain an inventory of 500 or more selection of beer labels.

III. Beer specialty licensees shall maintain an inventory of food and nonalcoholic beverages which are readily available to the public, the wholesale value of which shall not be less than \$1,000.

IV. The commission may establish restrictions on the number of beer specialty licenses held by any person.

V. All sales of beer~~[, tobacco products, and e-cigarettes]~~ shall be recorded on cash registers. No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year without prior approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued during the license year.

~~[VI. The commission may suspend the tobacco, e-cigarette, or alcohol sales portion of the license separately under the provisions of RSA 179:57.]~~

4 New Subparagraph; Liquor Licenses and Fees; Tobacco Product Seizure. Amend RSA 178:19-g, I by inserting after subparagraph (d) the following new subparagraph:

(e) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized under this section, the commission may exercise the seizure authority provided in RSA 178:19-g and may implement a

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1 “seizure in place” method for tobacco products found in violation of RSA 78 or this chapter. The
2 commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, governing the procedures for seizure in place,
3 custody, and disposition.

4 5 New Section; Liquor Licenses and Fees; Reporting Requirements. Amend RSA 178 by
5 inserting after section 19-h the following new section:

6 178:19-i Reporting Requirements.

7 I. The holders of the retail tobacco licenses, tobacco products manufacturers, and tobacco
8 products wholesalers shall be required to report inventory, loss, purchases and sales to the
9 commission.

10 II. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing reporting
11 requirements and procedures pursuant to this section.

12 6 Enforcement Proceedings and Penalties; Suspension or Revocation; Administrative Fines.
13 Amend RSA 179:57, I(e) to read as follows:

14 (e) Otherwise fails to carry out in good faith the purposes of this title or if the premises
15 are regularly the site of violence, the license of such licensee may be suspended or revoked after
16 notice and hearing, in accordance with RSA 541-A:31-36. Notwithstanding any other provisions of
17 this chapter, the commission after the appropriate hearing may impose a fine of a specific sum,
18 which shall not be less than \$100 nor more than \$7,500 for any one offense, ***except for fines issue***
19 ***under subparagraph (1), which may exceed \$7,500.*** Such a fine may be imposed instead of, or
20 in addition to, any suspension or revocation of a license by the commission.

21 ***(1) In addition to any other fines or penalties authorized under this section,***
22 ***a licensee who is found in possession of, selling, delivering, or otherwise receiving illegal,***
23 ***untaxed, or contraband tobacco products in violation of RSA 78, RSA 178:19-a, 178:19-e, or***
24 ***179:19-f shall be subject to an administrative fine equal to the amount of state tobacco tax***
25 ***that would have been due had the tobacco products been lawfully purchased and taxed***
26 ***under RSA 78.***

27 ***(2) The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing***
28 ***procedures for the assessment, notice, hearing, and collection of such fines. Such products***
29 ***shall not be returned to the licensee and shall be destroyed.***

30 7 New Paragraphs; Minors; Tobacco Violations. Amend RSA 126-K:6 by inserting after
31 paragraph III the following new paragraphs:

32 IV. Notwithstanding RSA 169-B and RSA 169-D, a person 12 years of age and older who
33 violates this section shall not be considered a delinquent or a child in need of services.

34 V. Any person who has not attained 21 years of age who violates this section shall be guilty
35 of a violation and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100 for each offense or shall be required
36 to complete up to 20 hours of community service for each offense, or both. Where available,
37 punishment may also include participation in an education program.

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1 8 New Section; Alcoholic Beverages; Definitions and General Provisions; Alcoholic Preparations
2 Not Fit for Use as a Beverage. Amend RSA 175 by inserting after section 5-b the following new
3 section:

4 175:5-c Alcoholic Preparations Not Fit for Use as a Beverage. RSA 175 through RSA 180 shall
5 not apply to the sale of alcoholic preparations that are not fit for use as a beverage, including:

6 I. Dietary supplements, as defined in 21 U.S.C. 321, amended by the Dietary Supplement
7 Health and Education Act of 1994, and as may be amended from time to time;

8 II. Nonprescription or proprietary medicines, as defined in RSA 318:1, XVIII;

9 III. Toilet, medicinal, or antiseptic preparations that are not fit for use as a beverage; and

10 IV. Flavoring extracts or syrups that are not fit for use as a beverage.

11 9 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

SB 524-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT # 2026-1579h)

AN ACT relative to the sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products and relative to the licensure and sale of certain liquor products.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$100,000
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Liquor Fund/General Fund - Liquor revenue is credited to the Liquor Fund, with net revenues after expenditures being credited to the State General Fund			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Liquor Fund/General Fund - Liquor revenue is credited to the Liquor Fund, with net revenues after expenditures being credited to the State General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill creates penalties for persons under 21 years of age who violate laws related to tobacco products, e-cigarettes, devices, e-liquids, or alternative nicotine products; changes the types of products certain liquor licensees may sell; requires certain tobacco licensees, manufacturers, and wholesalers to report inventory, loss, purchases, and sales to the Liquor Commission; establishes an administrative fine for licensees found with illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products; and exempts alcoholic preparations not fit for use as a beverage from regulation under the alcoholic beverage statutes. The bill is effective January 1, 2027.

The Liquor Commission states the bill may increase state revenue by more than \$10,000 and less than \$100,000 annually beginning in FY 2027 from administrative fines assessed for violations involving illegal, untaxed, or contraband tobacco products. The Commission also states there may be a small indeterminable decrease in tobacco-related revenue associated with certain licensees no longer being eligible to sell tobacco products. The Commission states any additional

duties can be absorbed within existing resources and will evaluate the need for adjustment in resources in the 2028-2029 budget cycle.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Liquor Commission