Τ	H. B. 2097
2	
3	(By Delegate Doyle)
4	[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
5	Committee on the Judiciary.]
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$11-16-8$ of the Code of West Virginia,
11	1931, as amended, relating to permitting the sale of
12	nonintoxicating beer within three hundred feet from a church
13	that consents to the sale.
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
15	That \$11-16-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
16	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
17	ARTICLE 16. NONINTOXICATING BEER.
18	§11-16-8. Form of application for license; fee and bond; refusal
19	of license.
20	(a) A license may be issued by the commissioner to any person
21	who submits an application therefor, accompanied by a license fee,
22	and, where required, a bond, stating under oath:
23	(1) The name and residence of the applicant, the duration of

1 such residency, that the applicant has been a resident of the state
2 for a period of two years next preceding the date of the
3 application and that the applicant is twenty-one years of age. If
4 the applicant is a firm, association, partnership, limited
5 partnership or corporation, the application shall include the
6 residence of the members or officers for a period of two years next
7 preceding the date of such application: Provided, That if any
8 person, firm, partnership, limited partnership, association or
9 corporation applies for a license as a distributor, such the
10 person, or in the case of a firm, partnership, limited partnership
11 or association, the members or officers thereof shall state under
12 oath that each has been a bona fide resident of the state for four
13 years preceding the date of such application;

14 (2) The place of birth of applicant, that he or she is a
15 citizen of the United States and of good moral character and, if a
16 naturalized citizen, when and where naturalized; and, if a
17 corporation organized or authorized to do business under the laws
18 of the state, when and where incorporated, with the name and
19 address of each officer; that each officer is a citizen of the
20 United States and a person of good moral character; and if a firm,
21 association, partnership or limited partnership, the place of birth
22 of each member of the firm, association, partnership or limited
23 partnership, and that each member is a citizen of the United States
24 and if a naturalized citizen, when and where naturalized, each of

- 1 whom must qualify and sign the application: Provided, That the
- 2 requirements as to residence shall not apply to the officers of a
- 3 corporation which shall apply for a retailer's license, but the
- 4 officers, agent or employee who shall manage and be in charge of
- 5 the licensed premises shall possess all of the qualifications
- 6 required of an individual applicant for a retailer's license,
- 7 including the requirement as to residence;
- 8 (3) The particular place for which the license is desired and
- 9 a detailed description thereof;
- 10 (4) The name of the owner of the building and, if the owner is
- 11 not the applicant, that such the applicant is the actual and bona
- 12 fide lessee of the premises;
- 13 (5) (A) That the place or building in which is proposed to do
- 14 business conforms to all laws of health, fire and zoning
- 15 regulations applicable thereto, and is a safe and proper place or
- 16 building, and is not within three hundred feet of any school or
- 17 church, measured from front door to front door, along the street or
- 18 streets: Provided, That this requirement shall not apply to a
- 19 Class B license, or to any place now occupied by a beer licensee,
- 20 so long as it is continuously so occupied: Provided, however, That
- 21 the prohibition against locating any such proposed business in a
- 22 place or building within three hundred feet of any school shall not
- 23 apply to any college or university that has notified the
- 24 commissioner, in writing, that it has no objection to the location

- 1 of any such proposed business in a place or building within three
- 2 hundred feet of such the college or university;
- 3 (B) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (A) of this
- 4 <u>subdivision to the contrary, for applications for licens</u>es filed
- 5 for periods beginning after June 30, 2011, where the location of
- 6 the proposed business is within three hundred feet of a church, the
- 7 application shall state that each of the requirements of paragraph
- 8 (B), subdivision (2), subsection (c) of this section have been met;
- 9 (6) That the applicant is not incarcerated and has not during
- 10 the five years immediately preceding the date of said application
- 11 been convicted of a felony;
- 12 (7) That the applicant is the only person in any manner
- 13 pecuniarily interested in the business so asked to be licensed, and
- 14 that no other person shall be in any manner pecuniarily interested
- 15 therein during the continuance of the license; and
- 16 (8) That the applicant has not during five years next
- 17 immediately preceding the date of said application had a
- 18 nonintoxicating beer license revoked.
- 19 (b) The provisions and requirements of subsection (a) of this
- 20 section are mandatory prerequisites for the issuance, and in the
- 21 event any applicant fails to qualify under the same, license shall
- 22 be refused. In addition to the information furnished in any
- 23 application, the commissioner may make such additional and
- 24 independent investigation of each applicant, and of the place to be

- 1 occupied, as deemed necessary or advisable; and for this reason
- 2 each and all applications, with license fee and bond, must be filed
- 3 thirty days prior to the beginning of any fiscal year, and if
- 4 application is for an unexpired portion of any fiscal year,
- 5 issuance of license may be withheld for such a reasonable time as
- 6 necessary for investigation.
- 7 (c) The commissioner may refuse a license to any applicant
- 8 under the provisions of this article if the commissioner shall be
- 9 is of the opinion:
- 10 (1) That the applicant is not a suitable person to be
- 11 licensed;
- 12 (2) (A) That the place to be occupied by the applicant is not
- 13 a suitable place; or is within three hundred feet of any school or
- 14 church, measured from front door to front door along the street or
- 15 streets: Provided, That this requirement shall not apply to a
- 16 Class B licensee, or to any place now occupied by a beer licensee,
- 17 so long as it is continuously so occupied: Provided, however, That
- 18 the prohibition against locating any such place to be occupied by
- 19 an applicant within three hundred feet of any school shall not
- 20 apply to any college or university that has notified the
- 21 commissioner, in writing, that it has no objection to the location
- 22 of any such place within three hundred feet of such the college or
- 23 university; or
- 24 (B) That the requirements of this paragraph are not met.

- 1 Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (A) of this subdivision
- 2 to the contrary, for applications for licenses filed for periods
- 3 beginning after June 30, 2011, the location of the place or
- 4 building in which a licensee or applicant does or proposes to do
- 5 business not otherwise exempted pursuant to paragraph (A) may be
- 6 within three hundred feet of a church if the following requirements
- 7 are met:
- 8 (i) The governing body of the church has notified the
- 9 commissioner, in writing, that it has no objection to the operation
- 10 and location of the business proposed by the applicant in a place
- 11 or building within three hundred feet of the church;
- 12 (ii) The applicant provided information about the outside
- 13 appearance and floor plan of the business location to the governing
- 14 body of the church prior to gaining the church's approval;
- 15 (iii) The business has been in operation by the applicant or
- 16 the applicant's predecessor in interest in the business at the
- 17 <u>location for at least one year prior to making application;</u>
- 18 (iv) During the period of beer licensure, no video lottery
- 19 machines are operated at the location unless video lottery machines
- 20 were duly operated at the location by the applicant or the
- 21 applicant's predecessor in interest in the business on the
- 22 effective date of the amendment and reenactment of this section in
- 23 2011; and
- 24 (v) The governing body of the church has not rescinded its

- 1 approval of the operation and location of the business within three
- 2 hundred feet of the church, which the governing body is authorized
- 3 to do effective one year after the issuance of the license and each
- 4 successive anniversary thereafter; or
- 5 (3) That the license should not be issued for reason of
- 6 conduct declared to be unlawful by this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit a beer licensee to locate within three hundred feet of a church if agreed to by the church under certain circumstances.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.