# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## 2016 REGULAR SESSION

## Introduced

## **Senate Bill 435**

By Senators Leonhardt, Walters, Williams, Miller,
Trump, Woelfel, Unger and Plymale

[Introduced January 29, 2016;

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural

Development; and then to the Committee on

Government Organization]

A BILL to amend and reenact §60-1-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §60-4-3b of said code; and to amend and reenact §60-8-3 of said code, all relating to permitting farm winery licensure as alternating wine proprietorships; and permitting farm wineries to provide samples and off-premises sales at separately licensed fairs and festivals.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §60-1-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted; that §60-4-3b of said code be amended and reenacted; and that §60-8-3 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

#### **ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

#### §60-1-5a. Farm wineries defined.

- (a) For the purpose of this chapter "farm winery" means an establishment where in any year fifty thousand gallons or less of wine and nonfortified dessert wine are manufactured exclusively by natural fermentation from grapes, other fruits or honey or other agricultural products containing sugar and where port, sherry and Madeira wine may also be manufactured, with twenty-five percent of such raw products being produced by the owner of such farm winery on the premises of that establishment and no more than twenty-five percent of such produce originating from any source outside this state. Any port, sherry or Madeira wine manufactured by a winery or a farm winery must not exceed an alcoholic content of twenty-two percent alcohol by volume and shall be matured in wooden barrels or casks.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a farm winery may include one off-farm location. The owner of a farm winery may provide to the commissioner evidence, accompanied by written findings by the West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner in support thereof, that the owner has planted on the premises of the farm winery young nonbearing fruit plants. The commissioner may grant permission for one off-farm location in an amount equal to that reasonably expected to be produced when the nonbearing fruit plants planted on the farm

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winery come into full production. The length of time of the permission to use an off-farm location shall be determined by the commissioner after consultation with the Agriculture Commissioner.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a licensed farm winery that meets the requirements in this chapter and who is in good standing with the state may enter into an alternating wine proprietorship agreement with the owner of a farm located in West Virginia to rent or lease wine production facilities, equipment and space including a separately bonded wine area at the existing licensed farm winery's premises. The owner of a farm located in West Virginia entering the alternating wine proprietorship agreement must be currently producing grapes, other fruits or honey or other agricultural products containing sugar as certified by the West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner at its farm located in West Virginia. The owner of a farm located in West Virginia renting or leasing wine production facilities, equipment and space, as a tenant of a licensed farm winery must separately meet federal requirements and state requirements for a winery or farm winery and qualify and obtain such licensure. Further, no wine produced by any of the parties to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement may be commingled and also the wine must be maintained in separate bonded areas and storage that is sanitary. The parties to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement must maintain separate businesses, produce wine separately from each entity and may not assist the other parties. The owner of a farm located in West Virginia that is a party to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement may only produce in any year fifty thousand gallons or less of wine and nonfortified dessert wine manufactured exclusively by natural fermentation from grapes, other fruits or honey or other agricultural products containing sugar and where port, sherry and Madeira wine may also be manufactured, with twenty-five percent of such raw products being produced by the owner of such farm on its farm location premises in West Virginia and no more than twenty-five percent of such produce originating from any source outside this state. Any port, sherry or Madeira wine manufactured by a licensed winery, farm winery or farm with a validly entered alternating wine proprietorship agreement must not exceed an alcoholic content of twenty-two percent alcohol by

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volume and shall be matured in wooden barrels or casks. A farm and farm owner that is a party to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement and licensed pursuant to this subsection must obtain licensure as a farm winery and must meet the same requirements in the code and the rules, except where noted. A licensed farm winery may enter into multiple alternating wine proprietorship agreements with separate owners of farms located in West Virginia subject to the requirements of the code and the rules, and must also have the requisite production facilities, equipment and space to safely produce wine for all parties.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, alternating wine proprietorship agreements in subsection (c) of this section may also be entered into by two or more separate owners of farms located in West Virginia to co-own and share the use of wine production facilities, equipment and space including a separately bonded wine area for each owner of a farm located in West Virginia. The two or more farms entering the alternating wine proprietorship agreement must all be located in West Virginia and must be currently producing grapes, other fruits or honey or other agricultural products containing sugar as certified by the West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner at the farms located in West Virginia. The farm owners, their farms located in West Virginia and the premises where the wine will be manufactured must be located in West Virginia and must each separately meet federal requirements and state requirements for a winery or farm winery. Further, no wine produced by any of the parties to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement may be commingled and also the wine must be maintained in separate bonded areas and storage that is sanitary. The parties to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement must maintain separate businesses, produce wine separately from each entity and may not assist the other parties. The owners of farms located in West Virginia that are parties to the alternating wine proprietorship agreement may each only produce in any year fifty thousand gallons or less of wine and nonfortified dessert wine manufactured exclusively by natural fermentation from grapes, other fruits or honey or other agricultural products containing

sugar and where port, sherry and Madeira wine may also be manufactured, with twenty-five percent of such raw products being produced by the owner of such farms at their farm premises located in West Virginia and no more than twenty-five percent of such produce originating from any source outside this state. Any port, sherry or Madeira wine manufactured by a licensed winery, farm winery or farm with a validly entered alternating wine proprietorship agreement must not exceed an alcoholic content of twenty-two percent alcohol by volume and shall be matured in wooden barrels or casks. Farms and farm owners that are a party to an alternating wine proprietorship agreement and licensed pursuant to this subsection must each obtain licensure as a farm winery and must meet the same requirements in the code and the rules, except where noted. Owners of farms located in West Virginia that obtain licensure as farm wineries and who are parties to a valid alternating wine proprietorship agreement to co-own or share facilities are subject to the requirements of the code and the rules and must also have the requisite production facilities, equipment and space to safely produce wine for all parties to the alternating wine proprietorship agreement.

(e) The commissioner shall propose legislative rules for legislative approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code as are necessary to implement this section.

ARTICLE 4. LICENSES.

#### §60-4-3b. Winery and farm winery license to manufacture and sell.

(a) Sales of wine. — An operator of a winery or farm winery may offer wine produced by the winery or farm winery for retail sale to customers from the winery, effarm winery or a farm winery's licensed farm location in West Virginia provided in subsections (c) and (d), section five-a, article one of this chapter for consumption off the premises only. Except for free complimentary samples, no more than three samples per patron and no greater, in volume, than one fluid ounce per sample, offered pursuant to section one, article six of this chapter, customers are prohibited from consuming any wine on the premises of the winery, effarm winery or farm winery's licensed

- farm location in West Virginia provided in subsections (c) and (d), section five-a, article one of this
   chapter unless such winery or farm winery has obtained a multicapacity winery or farm winery
   license.
  - (b) Retail sales. Every licensed winery or farm winery shall comply with the provisions of articles three, four and eight of this chapter as applicable to wine retailers, wineries and suppliers when properly licensed in such capacities.
  - (c) Payment of taxes and fees. The winery or farm winery shall pay all taxes and fees required of licensed wine retailers and meet applicable licensing provisions as required by this chapter and by rule of the commissioner. Each winery or farm winery acting as its own supplier shall submit to the Tax Commissioner the liter tax for all sales at the winery or farm winery each month, as provided in article eight of this chapter.
  - (d) *Advertising.* A winery or farm winery may advertise a particular brand or brands of wine produced by it, and the price of the wine subject to federal requirements or restrictions.
  - (e) *Limitations on licensees.* A winery or farm winery must maintain separate winery or farm winery supplier, retailer and direct shipper licenses when acting in one or more of those capacities and must pay all associated license fees, unless such winery or farm winery holds a license issued pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (12), subsection (b), section three, article eight of this chapter. A winery or farm winery, if holding the appropriate licenses or a multicapacity winery or farm winery license, may act as its own supplier; retailer for off-premises consumption of its wine as specified in section two, article six of this chapter; private wine restaurant; and direct shipper for wine produced by the winery or farm winery. All wineries must use a distributor to distribute and sell their wine in the state, except for farm wineries. No more than one winery or farm winery license may be issued to a single person or entity, and no person may hold both a winery and a farm winery license. Farm wineries may enter alternating wine proprietorship agreements pursuant to section five-a, article one of this chapter.

#### ARTICLE 8. SALE OF WINES.

#### §60-8-3. Licenses; fees; general restrictions.

- (a) No person may engage in business in the capacity of a winery, farm winery, supplier, distributor, retailer, private wine bed and breakfast, private wine restaurant, private wine spa or wine specialty shop without first obtaining a license from the commissioner, nor shall a person continue to engage in any activity after his or her license has expired, been suspended or revoked. No person may be licensed simultaneously as a distributor and a retailer. No person, except for a winery or farm winery, may be licensed simultaneously as a supplier and a retailer. No person may be licensed simultaneously as a supplier and a private wine bed and breakfast, private wine restaurant or a private wine spa. No person may be licensed simultaneously as a distributor and a private wine bed and breakfast, a private wine restaurant or a private wine spa. No person may be licensed simultaneously as a retailer and a private wine bed and breakfast, a private wine restaurant or a private wine spa.
- (b) The commissioner shall collect an annual fee for licenses issued under this article as follows:
  - (1) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a supplier's license;
- (2) Twenty-five hundred dollars per year for a distributor's license and each separate warehouse or other facility from which a distributor sells, transfers or delivers wine shall be separately licensed and there shall be collected with respect to each location the annual license fee of \$2,500 as herein provided;
  - (3) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a retailer's license;
- (4) Two hundred fifty dollars per year for a wine specialty shop license, in addition to any other licensing fees paid by a winery or retailer holding a license, except for the amount of the license fee and the restriction to sales of winery or farm winery wines, a winery or farm winery acting as a wine specialty shop retailer is subject to all other provisions of this article which are applicable to a wine specialty shop retailer as defined in section two of this article;

- (5) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a wine tasting license;
- (6) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a private wine bed and breakfast license and each separate bed and breakfast from which a licensee sells wine shall be separately licensed and there shall be collected with respect to each location the annual license fee of \$150 as herein provided:
- (7) Two hundred fifty dollars per year for a private wine restaurant license and each separate restaurant from which a licensee sells wine shall be separately licensed and there shall be collected with respect to each location the annual license fee of \$250 as herein provided;
- (8) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a private wine spa license and each separate private wine spa from which a licensee sells wine shall be separately licensed and there shall be collected with respect to each location the annual license fee of \$150 as herein provided;
- (9) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a wine sampling license issued for a wine specialty shop under subsection (n) of this section;
- (10) No fee shall be charged for a special one-day license under subsection (p) of this section or for a heritage fair and festival license under subsection (q) of this section; and
- (11) One hundred fifty dollars per year for a direct shipper's license for a licensee who sells and ships only wine and \$250 per for a direct shipper's license who ships and sells wine, nonfortified dessert wine, port, sherry or Madeira wines.
- (12) Three hundred dollars per year for a multicapacity winery or farm winery license which shall enable the holder to operate as a retailer, wine specialty shop, supplier and direct shipper without obtaining an individual license for each capacity.
- (c) The license period shall begin on July 1 of each year and end on June 30 of the following year and if granted for a less period, the same shall be computed semiannually in proportion to the remainder of the fiscal year.
- (d) No retailer may be licensed as a private club as provided by article seven of this chapter, except as provided by subsection (k) of this section.

- (e) No retailer may be licensed as a Class A retail dealer in nonintoxicating beer as provided by article sixteen, chapter eleven of this code: *Provided*, That a delicatessen, a caterer or party supply store which is a grocery store as defined in section two of this article and which is licensed as a Class A retail dealer in nonintoxicating beer may be a retailer under this article: *Provided, however*, That any delicatessen, caterer or party supply store licensed in both capacities must maintain average monthly sales exclusive of sales of wine and nonintoxicating beer which exceed the average monthly sales of nonintoxicating beer.
- (f) A wine specialty shop under this article may also hold a wine tasting license authorizing the retailer to serve complimentary samples of wine in moderate quantities for tasting. Such wine specialty shop shall organize a wine taster's club, which has at least fifty duly elected or approved dues-paying members in good standing. Such club shall meet on the wine specialty shop's premises not more than one time per week and shall either meet at a time when the premises are closed to the general public, or shall meet in a separate segregated facility on the premises to which the general public is not admitted. Attendance at tastings shall be limited to duly elected or approved dues-paying members and their guests.
- (g) A retailer who has more than one place of retail business shall obtain a license for each separate retail establishment. A retailer's license may be issued only to the proprietor or owner of a bona fide grocery store or wine specialty shop.
- (h) (A) The commissioner may issue a special license for the retail sale of wine at any festival or fair which is endorsed or sponsored by the governing body of a municipality or a county commission. Such special license shall be issued for a term of no longer than ten consecutive days and the fee therefor shall be is \$250 regardless of the term of the license unless the applicant is the manufacturer of said wine on a winery or a farm winery as defined in section five-a, article one of this chapter, in which event the fee shall be \$50 if the event is held on the premises of the winery or farm winery. The application for the license shall contain information as the commissioner may reasonably require and shall be submitted to the commissioner at least thirty days prior to the first day when wine is to be sold at the festival or fair.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of this subsection, if the applicant for the festival or fair license is the manufacturer of said wine, a winery or a farm winery as defined in section five-a, article one of this chapter, and the event is located on the premises of a winery or a farm winery, then the fee is \$50.

(C) A licensed winery or a farm winery licensed under this subsection who has the festival or fair licensee's written authorization and approval from the commissioner may, in addition to or in conjunction with the festival and fair licensee exhibit, conduct complimentary tastings or sell samples, not to exceed a reasonable serving of three, one fluid ounces, tastings or samples per patron and may sell wine samples for consumption on the premises during the operation of a festival or fair only; and may sell wine for off-premises consumption: Provided, That for licensed wineries or farm wineries at a licensed festival or fair the tastings, samples and off-premises sales shall occur under the hours of operation as required in this article, except that on Sunday tastings, samples and off-premises sales are unlawful between the hours of 2:00 a. m. and 10:00 a. m.

(D) A special festival or fair license for a license fee of \$250 may be issued other than to a winery or a farm winery may be issued to a "wine club" as defined herein below. The festival or fair committee or the governing body shall designate a person to organize a club under a name which includes the name of the festival or fair and the words "wine club". The license shall be issued in the name of the wine club. A licensee may not commence the sale of wine as provided in this subsection until the wine club has at least fifty dues-paying members who have been enrolled and to whom membership cards have been issued. Thereafter, new members may be enrolled and issued membership cards at any time during the period for which the license is issued. A wine club licensed under the provisions of this subsection may sell wine only to its members, and in portions not to exceed eight ounces per serving. The sales shall take place on premises or in an area cordoned or segregated so as to be closed to the general public, and the general public shall not be admitted to the premises or area. A wine club licensee under the provisions of this subsection shall be authorized to serve complimentary samples of wine in moderate quantities for tasting.

(E) A license or farm winery approval to attend a festival or fair issued under the provisions of this subsection section and the licensee holding the license or the licensed winery or farm winery approved to attend a licensed festival or fair shall be subject to all other provisions of this article and the rules and orders of the commissioner relating to the special license: *Provided*, That the commissioner may by rule, regulation or order provide for certain waivers or exceptions with respect to the provisions, rules, regulations or orders as the circumstances of each festival or fair may require, including, without limitation, the right to revoke or suspend any license issued pursuant to this section prior to any notice or hearing notwithstanding the provisions of sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight of this article: *Provided, however*, That under no circumstances shall the provisions of subsection (c) or (d), section twenty of this article be waived nor shall any exception be granted with respect thereto.

(F) A license issued under the provisions of this subsection and the licensee holding the license is not subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this section.

(i) (A) The commissioner may issue a special license for the retail sale of wine in a professional baseball stadium. A license to sell wine granted pursuant to this subsection entitles the licensee to sell and serve wine for consumption in a professional baseball stadium. For the purpose of this subsection, "professional baseball stadium" means a facility constructed primarily for the use of a major or minor league baseball franchisee affiliated with the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc., or its successor, and used as a major or minor league baseball park. Any special license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be for a term beginning on the date of issuance and ending on the next following June 30 and its fee is \$250 regardless of the length of the term of the license. The application for the special license shall contain information as the commissioner may reasonably require and must be submitted to the commissioner at least thirty days prior to the first day when wine is to be sold at the professional baseball stadium. The special license may be issued in the name of the baseball franchisee or the name of the primary food and beverage vendor under contract with the baseball franchisee.

These sales must take place within the confines of the professional baseball stadium, provided that the exterior of the area where wine sales may occur are surrounded by a fence or other barrier prohibiting entry except upon the franchisee's express permission, and under the conditions and restrictions established by the franchisee, so that the wine sales area is closed to free and unrestricted entry by the general public.

- (B) A license issued under this subsection and the licensee holding the license is subject to all other provisions of this article and the rules and orders of the commissioner relating to the special license: *Provided*, That the commissioner may by rule or order grant certain waivers or exceptions to those rules or orders as the circumstances of each professional baseball stadium may require, including, without limitation, the right to revoke or suspend any license issued pursuant to this section prior to any notice or hearing notwithstanding sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight of this article: *Provided, however*, That under no circumstances may subsection (c) or (d), section twenty of this article be waived nor shall any exception be granted concerning those subsections.
- (C) The commissioner has the authority to propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement this subsection.
- (j) A license to sell wine granted to a private wine bed and breakfast, private wine restaurant, private wine spa or a private club under the provisions of this article entitles the operator to sell and serve wine, for consumption on the premises of the licensee, when the sale accompanies the serving of food or a meal to its members and their guests in accordance with the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That a licensed private wine bed and breakfast, private wine restaurant, private wine spa or a private club may permit a person over twenty-one years of age to purchase wine, consume wine and recork or reseal, using a tamper resistant cork or seal, up to two separate bottles of unconsumed wine in conjunction with serving of food or a meal to its members and their guests in accordance with the provisions of this article and in accordance with regulations promulgated by the commissioner for the purpose of consumption of said wine

off premises: *Provided, however,* That for this article, food or a meal provided by the private licensee means that the total food purchase, excluding beverage purchases, taxes, gratuity or other fees is at least \$15: *Provided further,* That a licensed private wine restaurant or a private club may offer for sale for consumption off the premises, sealed bottles of wine to its customers provided that no more than one bottle is sold per each person over twenty-one years of age, as verified by the private wine restaurant or private club, for consumption off the premises. Such licensees are authorized to keep and maintain on their premises a supply of wine in quantities as may be appropriate for the conduct of operations thereof. Any sale of wine so made shall be subject to all restrictions set forth in section twenty of this article. A private wine restaurant may also be licensed as a Class A retail dealer in nonintoxicating beer as provided by article sixteen, chapter eleven of this code.

- (k) With respect to subsections (h), (i), (j), (o) and (p) of this section, the commissioner shall promulgate legislative rules in accordance with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code with regard to the form of the applications, the suitability of both the applicant and location of the licensed premises and other legislative rules deemed necessary to carry the provisions of said subsections into effect.
- (I) The commissioner shall promulgate legislative rules in accordance with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to allow restaurants to serve wine with meals, and to sell wine by the bottle for off-premises consumption as provided in subsection (j) of this section. Each restaurant so licensed shall be charged an additional \$100 per year fee.
- (m) The commissioner shall establish guidelines to permit wines to be sold in all stores licensed for retail sales.
- (n) Wineries and farm wineries may advertise off premises as provided in section seven, article twenty-two, chapter seventeen of this code.
- (o) A wine specialty shop under this article may also hold a wine sampling license authorizing the wine specialty shop to conduct special wine sampling events at a licensed wine

specialty shop location during regular hours of business. The wine specialty shop may serve up to three complimentary samples of wine, consisting of no more than one ounce each, to any one consumer in one day. Persons serving the complimentary samples must be twenty-one years of age and an authorized representative of the licensed wine specialty shop, winery, farm winery or a representative of a distributor or registered supplier. Distributor and supplier representatives attending wine sampling events must be registered with the commissioner. No licensee, employee or representative may furnish, give or serve complimentary samples of wine to any person less than twenty-one years of age or to a person who is physically incapacitated due to the consumption of alcoholic liquor or the use of drugs. The wine specialty shop shall notify and secure permission from the commissioner for all wine sampling events one month prior to the event. Wine sampling events may not exceed six hours per calendar day. Licensees must purchase all wines used during these events from a licensed farm winery or a licensed distributor.

(p) The commissioner may issue special one-day licenses to duly organized, nonprofit corporations and associations allowing the sale and serving of wine when raising money for athletic, charitable, educational or religious purposes. The license application shall contain information as the commissioner may reasonably require and shall be submitted to the commissioner at least thirty days prior to the event. Wines used during these events may be donated by or purchased from a licensed retailer, a distributor or a farm winery. A licensed farm winery that: Is authorized in writing by a representative of the duly organized, nonprofit corporation and association which has obtained the one-day license; is in good standing with the state; and obtains the commissioner's approval prior to the one-day license event may, in addition to or in conjunction with the one-day licensee, exhibit, conduct complimentary tastings or sell samples not to exceed a reasonable serving of three, one fluid ounces, tastings or samples per patron, for consumption on the premises during the operation of the one-day license event; and may sell wine for off-premises consumption: *Provided*, That for a licensed farm winery at a licensed one-day event the tastings, samples and off-premises sales shall occur under the hours of operation

as required in this article, except on Sunday, tastings, samples and off-premises sales are unlawful between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., from the one-day licensee's submitted floor plan for the event subject to the requirements in the code and rules. Under no circumstances may the provisions of subsections subsection (c) or (f), section twenty of this article be waived nor may any exception be granted with respect thereto.

- (q) The commissioner may issue special licenses to heritage fairs and festivals allowing the sale, serving and sampling of wine from a licensed farm winery. The license application shall contain information required by the commissioner and shall be submitted to the commissioner at least thirty days prior to the event. Wines used during these events may be donated by or purchased from a licensed farm winery. Under no circumstances may the provision of subsection (c), section twenty of this article be waived nor may any exception be granted with respect thereto. The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement the provisions of this subsection.
- (r)(1) The commissioner may issue a special license for the retail sale of wine in a college stadium. A license to sell wine granted pursuant to this subsection entitles the licensee to sell and serve wine for consumption in a college stadium. For the purpose of this subsection, "college stadium" means a facility constructed primarily for the use of a Division I college that is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or its successor, and used as a football, basketball, baseball, soccer or other Division I sports stadium. A special license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be for a term beginning on the date of its issuance and ending on the next following June 30 and its fee is \$250 regardless of the length of the term of the license. The application for the special license shall contain information as the commissioner may reasonably require and must be submitted to the commissioner at least thirty days prior to the first day when wine is to be sold. The special license may be issued in the name of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I college or university or the name of the primary food and beverage vendor under contract with that college or university. These sales must take place within the

confines of the college stadium: *Provided,* That the exterior of the area where wine sales may occur are surrounded by a fence or other barrier prohibiting entry except upon the college or university's express permission, and under the conditions and restrictions established by the college or university, so that the wine sales area is closed to free and unrestricted entry by the general public.

- (2) A license issued under this subsection and the licensee are subject to the other requirements of this article and the rules and orders of the commissioner relating to the special license: *Provided*, That the commissioner may by rule or order grant certain waivers or exceptions to those rules or orders as the circumstances of each the college stadium may require, including, without limitation, the right to revoke or suspend any license issued pursuant to this section prior to any notice or hearing notwithstanding sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight of this article: *Provided, however*, That subsection (c) or (d), section twenty of this article may not be waived, nor shall any exception be granted concerning those subsections.
- (3) The commissioner may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement this subsection.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit a farm winery to enter alternating wine proprietorship agreements with farm owners located in West Virginia who obtain licensure as a farm winery and rent or lease space from the established farm winery who owns wine production facilities, equipment and separately bonded wine areas and other space for the safe and sanitary manufacture of wine. Licensed farm wineries, with approval, may also attend licensed festivals and fairs and conduct tastings and sell samples up to three samples, one fluid ounce, per patron and sell bottles for off-premises consumption by patrons.

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