

1 AN ACT relating to microbreweries.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 243.157 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) A microbrewery license shall authorize the licensee to perform the following
5 functions:
- 6 (a) Engage in the business of a brewer under the terms and conditions of KRS
7 243.150, provided that production of malt beverages at the microbrewery shall
8 not exceed fifty thousand (50,000) barrels in one (1) year;
 - 9 (b) Serve on the premises complimentary samples of malt beverages produced by
10 the microbrewery in amounts not to exceed sixteen (16) ounces per patron,
11 provided the microbrewery is located in wet territory or a precinct that has
12 authorized the sale of alcoholic beverages at microbreweries under KRS
13 242.1239;
 - 14 (c) Sell malt beverages produced on the premises of the microbrewery to licensed
15 distributors;
 - 16 (d) Sell malt beverages produced on the premises of the microbrewery for on- and
17 off-premises purposes in accordance with subsection (3)(b) and (c) of this
18 section, pursuant to the following:
 - 19 1. Without restriction on the amount of malt beverages sold by the drink
20 for on-premises consumption provided the microbrewery is located in
21 wet territory or a precinct that has authorized the sale of alcoholic
22 beverages at microbreweries under KRS 242.1239; and
 - 23 2. With a restriction on the amount of malt beverages sold for off-premises
24 consumption, in an aggregate amount not to exceed thirty-one (31)
25 gallons per person per day that shall not include more than three (3)
26 cases in case format; ~~and~~
 - 27 (e) Sell:

- 1 1. Unlimited amounts of malt beverages by the drink; and
 2 2. Not more than one (1) case of packaged malt beverages;
 3 produced on the premises of the microbrewery to consumers at fairs, festivals,
 4 and other similar types of events located in wet territory, in accordance with
 5 subsection (3)(b)2. and (c)2. of this section; **and**

6 **(f) Sell and deliver up to two thousand five hundred (2,500) barrels of malt**
 7 **beverages annually to any retail license holder, provided that:**

- 8 **1. Any products sold and delivered under this paragraph that are not**
 9 **otherwise registered by a licensed distributor shall be registered with**
 10 **the department by the microbrewery; and**
 11 **2. The microbrewer notifies the distributor of any self-distribution**
 12 **delivery by electronic or other means.**

13 (2) A microbrewery license shall not be deemed to be incompatible with any other
 14 license except for a distributor's license under the provisions of KRS 243.180.

15 (3) In accordance with the provisions of this section, a microbrewery license holder
 16 may:

17 (a) Hold retail drink and package licenses both on and off the premises of the
 18 microbrewery. The holder of a microbrewery license is exempt from the
 19 provisions of KRS 244.570 and 244.590 as applied to any retail licenses held
 20 by the microbrewery license holder, and from any other sections which would
 21 restrict the co-ownership of the microbrewery license and any retail licenses
 22 described in this section;

23 (b) Sell malt beverages produced on the premises of the microbrewery for on-
 24 premises purposes without having to transfer physical possession of those
 25 malt beverages to a licensed distributor provided:

- 26 1. The microbrewery possesses a retail drink license for those premises;
 27 and

1 2. The microbrewery reports and pays all taxes required by subsection
2 (5)(a) and (b) of this section to the Department of Revenue at the time
3 and in the manner required by the Department of Revenue in accordance
4 with its powers under KRS 131.130(3); and

5 (c) Sell malt beverages produced on the premises of the microbrewery for off-
6 premises purposes without having to transfer physical possession of those
7 malt beverages to a licensed distributor provided that:

8 1. The microbrewery possesses a retail package license for those premises;
9 and

10 2. The microbrewery reports and pays all taxes required by subsection
11 (5)(a) and (b) of this section to the Department of Revenue at the time
12 and in the manner required by the Department of Revenue in accordance
13 with its powers under KRS 131.130(3).

14 (4) The provisions of subsection (3)(b) and (c) of this section shall apply only to malt
15 beverages that are produced by the microbrewery at its licensed premises and:

16 (a) Offered for sale by the microbrewery at that same premises under the
17 microbrewery's retail drink or package license; or

18 (b) Offered for sale by the microbrewery at a fair, festival, or other similar type of
19 event as authorized under subsection (1)(e) of this section.

20 All other malt beverages produced by the microbrewery which are offered for retail
21 sale shall be sold and physically transferred to a licensed distributor in compliance
22 with all other relevant provisions of KRS Chapters 241 to 244, and a licensed
23 microbrewery shall not otherwise affect sales of malt beverages directly to retail
24 customers except as provided in subsection (3)(b) and (c) of this section under KRS
25 243.027 to 243.029 if the microbrewery holds a direct shipper license.

26 (5) (a) A microbrewery selling malt beverages in accordance with subsection (1)(f)
27 ~~or subsection~~ (3)(b) and (c) of this section shall pay all wholesale sales taxes

1 due under KRS 243.884. For the purposes of this subsection, "wholesale
2 sales" means a sale of malt beverages made by a microbrewery under
3 subsection (1)(f) or~~subsection~~ (3)(b) and (c) of this section, as applicable.

4 (b) A microbrewery shall pay the excise tax on malt beverages in accordance with
5 KRS 243.720(3) and 243.730 and shall be entitled to the credit set forth in
6 KRS 243.720(3)(b).

7 (6) A microbrewery shall not be located in dry territory.

8 (7) An employee of a microbrewery may sample the products produced by that
9 microbrewery for purposes of education, quality control, and product development.

10 (8) This section does not exempt the holder of a microbrewery license from the
11 provisions of KRS Chapters 241 to 244, nor from any rules of the board as
12 established by administrative regulations, nor from regulation by the board, except
13 as expressly stated in this section. The provisions of this section shall not be
14 deemed inconsistent with the provisions of KRS 244.602.

15 (9) Nothing in this section shall be construed to vitiate the policy of this
16 Commonwealth, as set forth in KRS 244.167 and 244.602, supporting an orderly
17 three (3) tier system for the production and sale of malt beverages.

18 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 244 IS CREATED TO
19 READ AS FOLLOWS:

20 (1) As of the effective date of this Act, KRS 244.602 to 244.606 shall not apply to any
21 new distribution agreement, or the renewal of an existing distribution agreement,
22 between a distributor of malt beverages and a microbrewery. Any existing
23 distribution agreement between a distributor of malt beverages and a
24 microbrewery shall be deemed to renew upon the earlier of January 1, 2022, or
25 the renewal date set forth in that agreement.

26 (2) Every distribution agreement providing for and specifying the rights and duties of
27 a microbrewer and distributor with and in regard to the sale of the products of

1 the microbrewer within the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be in writing. The
2 terms and provisions of the agreement shall comply with and conform to this
3 section.

4 (3) A distribution agreement between a microbrewer and a distributor shall not:

5 (a) Require the microbrewer or distributor to agree to renew the distribution
6 agreement at the expiration of a term;

7 (b) Except as set forth in subsection (4) of this section, permit a microbrewer or
8 distributor to terminate a distribution agreement without first giving written
9 notice of any alleged deficiency and giving the other party a reasonable
10 opportunity to cure the alleged deficiency. For purposes of this paragraph, a
11 reasonable opportunity to cure shall be sixty (60) days from the date a
12 notice of an alleged deficiency is received;

13 (c) Permit the assignment of the distribution agreement, in part or in whole,
14 without first obtaining the consent of the other party, which shall not be
15 unreasonably withheld provided the assignee possesses the financial,
16 technical, and operational skills necessary to perform under the distribution
17 agreement;

18 (d) Permit the microbrewer or distributor to unilaterally amend a distribution
19 agreement, or any document referred to or incorporated by reference in the
20 distribution agreement;

21 (e) Require a microbrewer or distributor to mediate or arbitrate disputes which
22 may arise between them, though nothing shall prohibit the parties from
23 resolving the dispute by retaining an independent mediator or arbitrator
24 while equally sharing the cost; or

25 (f) Prohibit a microbrewer or distributor from litigating in state or federal
26 courts located in Kentucky or from litigating under the laws of the
27 Commonwealth.

1 (4) A microbrewer may terminate a distribution agreement according to the terms of
2 the agreement or in any of the following instances:

3 (a) The assignment or attempted assignment by the distributor for the benefit of
4 creditors, the institution of proceedings in bankruptcy by or against the
5 distributor, the dissolution or liquidation of the distributor, the insolvency
6 of the distributor, or the distributor's failure to pay for malt beverages in
7 accordance with law;

8 (b) The felony conviction of a distributor, or any of its owners who participate
9 in the distributor's management which, in the sole judgment of the
10 microbrewer, may adversely affect the goodwill or interests of the
11 microbrewer;

12 (c) Fraudulent or discriminatory conduct of the distributor in any of its
13 dealings with a microbrewery or a microbrewer's products;

14 (d) Revocation or suspension for more than thirty-one (31) days of the
15 distributor's federal basic permit or any state or local license required of the
16 distributor for the normal operation of its business;

17 (e) Sale of malt beverages by a distributor outside its sales territory prescribed
18 by the distribution agreement in accordance with KRS 244.585;

19 (f) Without microbrewer consent, the distributor effectuates a change in
20 ownership or possession of ownership interests, establishes a trust or other
21 ownership interest, enters into buy-sell agreements, or grants an option to
22 purchase an ownership interest; provided, however, this right of
23 termination shall not apply to the transfer, creation, sale, gift, or grant of an
24 ownership interest, or option thereon, of a total aggregate of less than ten
25 percent (10%) of the total existing ownership or possession of ownership
26 interest of the distributor or intrafamily transfer; or

27 (g) In the case of a microbrewer whose products represent five percent (5%) or

1 less of a distributor's gross annual sales, the giving of a forty-five (45) day
2 notice of termination and the payment to the distributor of reasonable
3 compensation, which shall include monetary investment in product,
4 marketing expenses, and overhead, but shall not include goodwill or the
5 value of a brand. Reasonable compensation shall not exceed an amount
6 equal to five hundred percent (500%) of the distributor's average gross
7 profits from the sale of the brewer's products in the twelve (12) months
8 immediately preceding the delivery of the notice of termination, provided a
9 microbrewer terminating an agreement under this paragraph may do so not
10 more than once in a thirty-six (36) month period and shall not be deemed to
11 be in violation of subsection (5)(b) of this section.

12 (5) A microbrewer or a distributor of malt beverages shall not:

13 (a) Unreasonably discriminate or retaliate against the other party in the
14 application or performance of the terms of a distribution agreement;

15 (b) Require or request payment, convey money or other consideration or accept
16 any sum of money or other consideration in exchange for the right to
17 distribute the product or products of the microbrewer in a designated
18 territory, provided that the following items shall not be prohibited:

19 1. A microbrewer's request to a distributor to pay or contribute any sum
20 of money for or toward the cost of marketing the product or products
21 of the microbrewer so long as the money contributed by the distributor
22 is spent by the microbrewer in a manner and at such times as agreed
23 to in writing by the microbrewer and the distributor; and

24 2. Any payment pursuant to subsection (4)(g) of this section;

25 (c) Unreasonably withhold timely consent to a proposed sale or transfer, in part
26 or whole, of the stock or assets of the microbrewer or distributor, and in no
27 event shall the microbrewer or distributor take more than thirty (30) days to

1 approve or disapprove the proposed sale or transfer after the microbrewer
2 or distributor has received written notice of the proposal and received all
3 requested information to enable the microbrewer or distributor to pass upon
4 the purchaser's or transferee's financial, technical, and operational skills
5 necessary to perform under the distribution agreement; or

6 (d) Fail to give at least thirty (30) days' advance notice of a change in
7 ownership or possession of an ownership interest, whether by sale, transfer,
8 gift, or grant of an option.

9 (6) A distributor of malt beverages shall not:

10 (a) Refuse to enter into a distribution agreement with a microbrewery, in whole
11 or in part, except for good cause and in good faith; or

12 (b) Continue to distribute the microbrewer's products thirty (30) days after
13 receiving a notice of termination of a distribution agreement. However, any
14 sums owed to the distributor by the microbrewer or another distributor
15 assuming the obligation to distribute the microbrewer's product within the
16 territory encompassed by the terminated distribution agreement shall still be
17 owed.

18 (7) A microbrewer shall not enter into a contract with more than one (1) distributor
19 to sell any of its products or brands within the same territory or area at the same
20 time. This subsection shall not apply to contracts entered into prior to January 1,
21 2004, or future renewals of those contracts to the extent the existing contract and
22 the future renewal allow different distributors to sell some but not all of the
23 brewer's or importer's brands or brand extensions within the same territory or
24 area at the same time.

25 (8) A distributor that enters into or renews a distribution agreement with a
26 microbrewer following the effective date of this Act shall maintain physical
27 facilities and personnel so that:

- 1 (a) The product and brand of the microbrewer are reasonably represented in
2 the territory of the distributor for which the distribution agreement applies;
- 3 (b) The reputation and trade name of the microbrewer are reasonably promoted
4 and protected; and
- 5 (c) The public is fully serviced.
- 6 (9) A distributor may terminate a distribution agreement according to the terms of
7 the agreement or in any of the following instances:
- 8 (a) The assignment or attempted assignment by the microbrewer for the benefit
9 of creditors, the institution of proceedings in bankruptcy by or against the
10 microbrewer, the dissolution or liquidation of the microbrewer, or the
11 insolvency of the microbrewer;
- 12 (b) The felony conviction of a microbrewer, or any of its owners who
13 participate in the microbrewer's management which, in the sole judgment
14 of the distributor, may adversely affect the goodwill or interests of the
15 distributor;
- 16 (c) Fraudulent or discriminatory conduct of the microbrewer in any of its
17 dealings with a distributor or a distributor's brands;
- 18 (d) Revocation or suspension for more than thirty-one (31) days of the
19 microbrewer's federal basic permit or any state or local license required of
20 the microbrewer for the normal operation of its business; or
- 21 (e) Without distributor consent, the microbrewer effectuates a change in
22 ownership or possession of ownership interests, establishes a trust or other
23 ownership interest, enters into buy-sell agreements, or grants an option to
24 purchase an ownership interest; provided, however, this right of
25 termination shall not apply to the transfer, creation, sale, gift, or grant of an
26 ownership interest, or option thereon, of a total aggregate of less than ten
27 percent (10%) of the total existing ownership or possession of ownership

1 *interest of the microbrewer or intrafamily transfer.*
2 *(10) Any microbrewer or distributor that violates any provision of this section shall*
3 *pay the injured party all reasonable damages sustained as a result of the*
4 *microbrewer's or distributor's violations, together with the costs and attorneys'*
5 *fees incurred by the microbrewer or distributor in protecting its right.*

6 ➔Section 3. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or
7 circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or
8 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or
9 application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.