

SENATE BILL 1997

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1 and Title 57, relative to age restrictions pertaining to alcohol.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 1-3-113, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) Except as provided in this section or another law to the contrary, a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older has the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as a person who is twenty-one (21) years of age.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), it is unlawful for a person under twenty-one (21) years of age to purchase, possess, transport, or consume tobacco, smoking hemp, or vapor products, as those terms are defined in title 39, or alcoholic beverages, wine, or beer, as those terms are defined in title 57, with the following exceptions:

(1) A person eighteen (18) years of age or older may transport, possess, sell, and dispense tobacco, smoking hemp, and vapor products in the course of such person's employment; and

(2) A person sixteen (16) years of age or older may transport, possess, sell, and dispense alcoholic beverages, wine, and beer in the course of such person's employment.

(c) Section 39-17-705(1) is not affected by subsection (b), it being the intent of the general assembly that such provisions remain lawful and in full force and effect. A priest or minister may utilize and administer alcohol or wine at a communion service, but

mitzvah, bar mitzvah, or other similar religious service or ceremony, in accordance with the practices of such denomination or sect.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 57-3-412(a)(3)(A); 57-3-703; 57-3-704; and 57-4-203(b)(3), are amended by deleting the language "eighteen (18) years of age" wherever it may appear and substituting "sixteen (16) years of age".

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.