



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 684

H.P. 465

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

**An Act To Amend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May
Be Sold and Purchased**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KINNEY of Limington.
Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CHENETTE of Saco, LUCHINI of Ellsworth,
SAUCIER of Presque Isle, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator: COLLINS of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §4, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 476, Pt. A, §5, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **1. Hours for sale of liquor.** Except as provided in paragraphs ~~A to~~ B and D,
5 licensees may sell or deliver liquor from 5 a.m. on any day until 1 a.m. of the following
6 day.

7 ~~A. Licensees may not sell liquor on Sunday between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 a.m.,~~
8 ~~except on March 17th, when a licensee may sell liquor beginning at 6 a.m.~~

9 B. Licensees may sell liquor on January 1st of any year from 12 midnight to 2 a.m.

10 (1) In areas in which liquor may be sold except on Sundays, if January 1st falls
11 on a Monday, licensees may sell or deliver liquor between 9 p.m. Sunday,
12 December 31st and 2 a.m. January 1st, notwithstanding any local option
13 decisions to the contrary.

14 D. Wholesale licensees may sell or deliver liquor to licensed establishments from 4
15 a.m. on any day until 1 a.m. the following day.

16 **Sec. 2. 28-A MRSA §4, sub-§§5 and 6**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 45, Pt. A, §4,
17 are repealed.

18 **Sec. 3. 28-A MRSA §353**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 476, Pt. A, §14 and
19 affected by §36, is further amended to read:

20 **§353. Business hours**

21 Agency liquor stores may be open for the sale and delivery of spirits and fortified
22 wine between the hours of ~~6~~ 5 a.m. and 1 a.m. in municipalities and unincorporated
23 places that have voted in favor of the operation of agency liquor stores under local option
24 provisions. Notwithstanding any local option decisions to the contrary, agency liquor
25 stores may be open from ~~9~~ 5 a.m. Sunday to 1 a.m. the next day.

26 **Sec. 4. 28-A MRSA §353-A**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 476, Pt. B, §1 and
27 affected by §6, is amended to read:

28 **§353-A. Business hours**

29 Agency liquor stores may be open for the sale and delivery of spirits as provided in
30 section 4, subsection 1 in municipalities and unincorporated places that have voted in
31 favor of the operation of agency liquor stores under local option provisions.
32 Notwithstanding any local option decisions to the contrary ~~and except as provided by~~
33 ~~section 4, subsection 1, paragraph A~~, agency liquor stores may be open from ~~9~~ 5 a.m.
34 Sunday to 1 a.m. the following day.

35 **Sec. 5. 28-A MRSA §1077, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 656, §3, is
36 further amended to read:

1 C. A vessel licensed to sell liquor under this section may sell liquor on Sundays only
2 between the hours of ~~9:00~~ 5 a.m. and midnight on inland waters and when operated
3 within the 3-mile limit on coastal waters.

4 **Sec. 6. 28-A MRSA §1355-A, sub-§2, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 629, §22,
5 is amended to read:

6 E. A licensee may serve complimentary samples of liquor on Sunday after the hour
7 of ~~9~~ 5 a.m. and may sell liquor on Sunday after the hour of ~~9~~ 5 a.m. if the
8 municipality in which the licensed premises is located has authorized the sale of
9 liquor on Sunday for consumption off the premises under chapter 5.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill allows a holder of a liquor license to sell or deliver liquor from 5 a.m. on
12 any day until 1 a.m. of the following day except in those areas in which liquor may not be
13 sold on Sundays. The bill also amends sections of law that deal with the sale of liquor on
14 Sundays to reflect this change.