



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1678

H.P. 1148

House of Representatives, March 28, 2016

**An Act To Change the Definition of "Hard Cider" for Consistency
with Federal Law**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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 LUCHINI of Ellsworth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §2, sub-§12-A,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 652, Pt. A, §41,
3 is further amended to read:

4 **12-A. Hard cider.** "Hard cider" means liquor produced by fermentation of the juice
5 of apples or pears, including, but not limited to, flavored, sparkling or carbonated cider,
6 that contains not less than 1/2 of 1% alcohol by volume and not more than ~~7%~~ 8.5%
7 alcohol by volume.

8 **Sec. 2. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2017.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill amends the definition of "hard cider" to be consistent with the definition of
11 "hard cider" in federal law as administered by the United States Department of the
12 Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Like the federal definition, the
13 change to the definition of "hard cider" in this bill takes effect on January 1, 2017. The
14 bill increases the allowable alcohol content from 7% to 8.5% and allows hard cider to be
15 produced from the juice of pears as well as of apples.