

Prior law required the operator of certain restaurants and cafeterias, where food and drink including light wine were legally sold for consumption on the premises in connection with the consumption of food, to obtain an annual permit from the commissioner before commencing or engaging in the business of handling the light wine and required the operator to pay \$30 for the permit.

New law changes the permit requirement for the operator of a restaurant or cafeteria to the operator of any alcoholic beverage outlet where wine or malt beverages are sold for consumption on the premises or sold in factory-sealed containers for transportation and consumption off the premises to obtain an annual permit from the commissioner before commencing or engaging in the business of handling the light wine.

Prior law defined "light wine" to mean any non-effervescent alcoholic beverage, known as still wine, derived from the juice of any fruit or synthesis thereof, of an alcoholic content of not more than 14% by volume.

New law changes the term "light wine" to "wine" and defines it as any effervescent or non-effervescent alcoholic beverage derived from the juice of any fruit or synthesis thereof, of an alcoholic content more than 6% by volume. New law further provides that wine is exclusive of all "liquors", whether they be defined as intoxicating or spirituous liquors, which are produced by distillation.

New law defines "malt beverages" to mean beverages obtained by alcoholic fermentation of an infusion or by a brewing process or concoction of barley or other grain, malt, sugars, and hops in water, including among other things, ale, beer, stout, porter and the like and containing more than 6% alcohol by volume. New law further provides that malt beverages are exclusive of all "liquors", whether they be defined as intoxicating or spirituous liquors, which are produced by distillation.

Prior law requires the provisions of law relative to alcohol beverage control to apply only to restaurants holding "R" permits.

New law prevents the provisions of new law from superseding existing law, which provides that no permit shall be granted in contravention of municipal or parish ordinances adopted pursuant to zoning laws of the state.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 28, 2014).

(Amends R.S. 26:72(A), (C), and (D))