- 1 SB98
- 2 114481-1
- 3 By Senator Bedford
- 4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
- 5 First Read: 12-JAN-10
- 6 PFD: 01/11/2010

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8	SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, fortified wine may only
9	be purchased in state liquor stores, and state
10	taxes on liquor apply to sales of fortified wine.
11	This bill would allow fortified wine to be
12	sold by any licensee of the Alcoholic Beverage
13	Control Board. This bill would levy a state tax on
14	fortified wine that would be equivalent to the
15	state liquor tax that is currently levied on sales
16	of fortified wine, and this bill would provide for
17	the distribution of the new tax to the recipients
18	of the current tax.
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20	A BILL
21	TO BE ENTITLED
22	AN ACT
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24	To amend Sections 28-1-3.1, 28-3-1, 28-3-53.2,
25	28-3-187.1, 28-3A-8, and 28-7-16, Code of Alabama 1975, and to
26	repeal Section 28-7-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the
27	sale of fortified wine, to allow fortified wine to be sold by

1 any licensee of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; to levy

2 a tax on fortified wine; and to provide for the distribution

3 of the tax.

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4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

5 Section 1. Sections 28-1-3.1, 28-3-1, 28-3-53.2,

28-3-187.1, 28-3A-8, and 28-7-16, Code of Alabama 1975, are

amended to read as follows:

8 "\$28-1-3.1.

"(a) Any person 21 years of age or over who is on active duty, in active reserve status or retired from the armed forces of the United States, or the dependent of such person, or is otherwise eligible to purchase alcoholic beverages from military package or liquor stores, shall be entitled to have in his possession, in his motor vehicle, or a private residence or place of private residence or the curtilage thereof in any county in this state, for his own private use and not for resale, not more than the following quantity of alcoholic beverages as defined in Section 28-3-1, which beverages have been sold by a military liquor, package, Class 6 or similar store or outlet: three liters of liquor and one case of beer; or three liters of wine and one case of beer; or two cases of beer; provided, however, that no alcoholic beverages shall be kept, stored or possessed in the passenger area of any vehicle, or in the view of any passenger; and further provided that the beer and table wine must first have been purchased by the military package or liquor stores from licensed Alabama wholesalers, and liquor

and fortified wine must first have been purchased by the military package and liquor stores from the Alabama ABC Board; and shall have sufficient identification, including but not limited to a sales receipt, to show that such alcoholic beverages were purchased in Alabama and sold by such military store or outlet; provided further that no rule or regulation of the board shall require a wholesaler to affix stamps or decals to beer or table wine.

"(b) It shall be unlawful for any person in possession of alcoholic beverages as enumerated in subsection (a) of this section to sell or offer to sell such alcoholic beverages to anyone not authorized to purchase such state untaxed beverages himself or to have in his possession at any one time any amount of state untaxed alcoholic beverages in excess of the quantity set forth in subsection (a) of this section. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00, or imprisoned in the county jail for a period not to exceed six months, either or both, at the discretion of the court.

"\$28-3-1.

The following words or phrases, whenever they appear in this chapter, and in Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Code, being Act No. 80-529, Acts of Alabama, 1980, as amended, appearing as Chapter 3A, Title 28, as amended, and the Alabama Table Wine Act, being Act 80-382, Acts of Alabama 1980, as amended, appearing as Chapter 7, Title 28, as amended, unless

the context clearly indicates otherwise, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section:

- (1) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. Any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous, vinous, fermented or otherwise alcoholic, and all drinks or drinkable liquids, preparations or mixtures intended for beverage purposes, which contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, and shall include liquor, beer, and wine, both fortified and table wine.
 - (2) ASSOCIATION. A partnership, limited partnership, or any form of unincorporated enterprise owned by two or more persons.
 - otherwise provided in this subdivision, any beer, lager beer, ale, porter, malt or brewed beverage, or similar fermented malt liquor containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume and not in excess of thirteen and nine-tenths percent by volume, by whatever name the same may be called. Beer or malt or brewed beverages sold by the holder of a retail beer license for off-premises consumption pursuant to Section 28-3A-17 shall only include any beer, lager beer, ale, porter, malt or brewed beverage, or similar fermented malt liquor containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume and not in excess of five percent alcohol by weight and six percent by volume, by whatever name the same may be called.

- (4) BOARD. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.
- (5) CARTON. The package or container or containers in which alcoholic beverages are originally packaged for shipment to market by the manufacturer or its designated representatives or the importer.
 - (6) CONTAINER. The single bottle, can, keg, bag or other receptacle, not a carton, in which alcoholic beverages are originally packaged for the market by the manufacturer or importer and from which the alcoholic beverage is consumed by or dispensed to the public.
 - (7) CLUB.

- a. Class I. A corporation or association organized or formed in good faith by authority of law and which must have at least 150 paid-up members. It must be the owner, lessee or occupant of an establishment operated solely for the objects of a national, social, patriotic, political or athletic nature or the like, but not for pecuniary gain, and the property as well as the advantages of which, belong to all the members and which maintains an establishment provided with special space and accommodations where, in consideration of payment, food with or without lodging is habitually served. The club shall hold regular meetings, continue its business through officers regularly elected, admit members by written application, investigation and ballot and charge and collect dues from elected members.
- b. Class II. A corporation or association organized or formed in good faith by authority of law and which must

have at least 100 paid-up members. It must be the owner,

lessee or occupant of an establishment operated solely for the

objects of a national, social, patriotic, political or

athletic nature or the like. The club shall hold regular

meetings, continue its business through officers regularly

elected, admit members by written application, investigation

and ballot and charge and collect dues from elected members.

- (8) CORPORATION. A corporation or joint stock association organized under the laws of this state, the United States, or any other state, territory or foreign country, or dependency.
- (9) DRY COUNTY. Any county which by a majority of those voting voted in the negative in an election heretofore held under the applicable statutes at the time of said election or may hereafter vote in the negative in an election or special method referendum hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of this title, or held in accordance with the provisions of any act hereafter enacted permitting such election.
- (10) DRY MUNICIPALITY. Any municipality within a wet county which has, by its governing body or by a majority of those voting in a municipal election heretofore held in accordance with the provisions of Section 28-2-22, or in a municipal option election heretofore or hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Act 84-408, Acts of Alabama 1984, appearing as Chapter 2A of this title, or any act hereafter enacted permitting municipal option election, voted

- to exclude the sale of alcoholic beverages within the corporate limits of said municipality.
- 3 (11) GENERAL WELFARE PURPOSES.

- a. The administration of public assistance as set out in Sections 38-2-5 and 38-4-1;
 - b. Services, including supplementation and supplementary services under the federal Social Security Act, to or on behalf of persons to whom such public assistance may be given under said Sections 38-2-5 and 38-4-1;
 - c. Service to and on behalf of dependent, neglected or delinquent children; and
 - d. Investigative and referral services to and on behalf of needy persons.
 - "(12) HEARING COMMISSION. A body appointed by the board to hear and decide all contested license applications and all disciplinary charges against any licensee for violation of this title or the regulations of the board.
 - (13) HOTEL. A building or buildings held out to the public for housing accommodations of travelers or transients, and shall include motel, but shall not include a rooming house or boarding house.
 - (14) IMPORTER. Any person, association or corporation engaged in importing alcoholic beverages, liquor, wine or beer, manufactured outside of the United States of America into this state or for sale or distribution in this state, or to the board or to a licensee of the board.

(15) LIQUOR. Any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented, or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous, fermented, vinous or otherwise alcoholic, and all drinks or drinkable liquids, preparations or mixtures intended for beverage purposes, which contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, except beer and table wine.

- (16) LIQUOR STORE. A liquor store operated by the board, where alcoholic beverages other than beer are authorized to be sold in unopened containers.
- (17) MANUFACTURER. Any person, association or corporation engaged in the producing, bottling, manufacturing, distilling, rectifying or compounding of alcoholic beverages, liquor, beer or wine in this state or for sale or distribution in this state or to the board or to a licensee of the board.
- (18) MINOR. Any person under 21 years of age, except a person 19 years of age or older prior to October 1, 1985, is not a minor; provided, however, in the event Section 28-1-5, shall be repealed or otherwise shall be no longer in effect, thereafter the provisions of Section 26-1-1, shall govern.
- (19) MUNICIPALITY. Any incorporated city or town of this state to include its police jurisdiction.
- (20) PERSON. Every natural person, association or corporation. Whenever used in a clause prescribing or imposing a fine or imprisonment, or both, such term as applied to "association" shall mean the partners or members thereof and as applied to "corporation" shall mean the officers thereof,

except as to incorporated clubs the term "person" shall mean such individual or individuals who, under the bylaws of such clubs, shall have jurisdiction over the possession and sale of liquor therein.

- (21) POPULATION. The population according to the last preceding or any subsequent decennial census of the United States, except where a municipality is incorporated subsequent to the last census, in which event, its population until the next decennial census shall be the population of said municipality as determined by the judge of probate of said county as the official population on the date of its incorporation.
- (22) RESTAURANT. A reputable place licensed as a restaurant, operated by a responsible person of good reputation and habitually and principally used for the purpose of preparing and serving meals for the public to consume on the premises.
- (23) MEAL. A diversified selection of food some of which is not susceptible of being consumed in the absence of at least some articles of tableware and which cannot be conveniently consumed while one is standing or walking about.
- (24) RETAILER. Any person licensed by the board to engage in the retail sale of any alcoholic beverages to the consumer.
- (25) SALE or SELL. Any transfer of liquor, wine or beer for a consideration, and any gift in connection with, or

as a part of, a transfer of property other than liquor, wine or beer for a consideration.

- (26) SELLING PRICE. The total marked-up price of spirituous or vinous liquors sold by the board, exclusive of taxes levied thereon.
 - (27) UNOPENED CONTAINER. A container containing alcoholic beverages, which has not been opened or unsealed subsequent to filling and sealing by the manufacturer or importer.
 - (28) WET COUNTY. Any county which by a majority of those voting voted in the affirmative in an election heretofore held in accordance with the statutes applicable at the time of said election or may hereafter vote in the affirmative in an election or special method referendum held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of this title, or other statutes applicable at the time of said election.
 - county which by a majority of those voting voted in the affirmative in a municipal option election heretofore or hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Act 84-408, Acts of Alabama 1984, appearing as Chapter 2A of this title, as amended, or any act hereafter enacted permitting municipal option election, or any municipality which became wet by vote of the governing body or by the voters of the municipality heretofore or hereafter held under the special method referendum provisions of Section 28-2-22, or as

hereafter provided, where the county has become dry subsequent to the elected wet status of the municipality.

- engage in the sale and distribution of table wine and beer, or either of them, within this state, at wholesale only, to be sold by export or to retail licensees or other wholesale licensees or others within this state lawfully authorized to sell table wine and beer, or either of them, for the purpose of resale only.
- of fruits, berries, or grapes, with or without added spirits, and produced in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States, containing not more than 24 percent alcohol by volume, and shall include all sparkling wines, carbonated wines, special natural wines, rectified wines, vermouths, vinous beverages, vinous liquors, and like products, including restored or unrestored pure condensed juice.
- (32) FORTIFIED WINE or VINOUS LIQUOR. Any wine containing more than 16.5 percent alcohol by volume but not more than 24 percent. Fortified wine is vinous liquor.

(33) (32) TABLE WINE. Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, any wine containing not more than 16.5 24 percent alcohol by volume. Table wine does not include any wine containing more than 16.5 percent alcohol by volume that is made with herbs or flavors, except vermouth, or is an imitation or other than standard wine. Table wine sold at a convenience store by the holder of a retail table wine license

- for off-premises consumption, pursuant to Section 28-3A-15, shall only include wine containing not more than 14.9 percent alcohol by volume. Table wine is not liquor, spirituous or
 - (34) (33) BRANDY. All beverages which are an alcoholic distillate from the fermented juice, mash, or wine of fruit, or from the residue thereof, produced in such manner that the distillate possesses the taste, aroma, and characteristics generally attributed to the beverage, as bottled at not less than 80 degree proof.
 - (35) (34) CONVENIENCE STORE. A small store that is engaged primarily in the quick retail sale of motor fuel and a limited quantity and variety of consumable items in their original containers for off-premises consumption. The term does not include any of the following:
 - a. A large store engaged primarily in, and deriving a substantial amount of gross revenue from, the retail sale of food and dry goods for off-premises consumption, commonly known as a grocery store or department store.
 - b. A specialty store engaged primarily in, and deriving a substantial amount of gross revenue from, the retail sale of wine for on-premises or off-premises consumption.
- 24 "\$28-3-53.2.

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"(a) The word "board," wherever used in this section, shall mean the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board provided for in Chapter 3, Title 28. The term "mark up," wherever used in this section shall mean the percentage amount added to cost plus freight on spirituous or vinous liquors sold by the "board," exclusive of taxes heretofore levied with respect thereto.

"(b) The total amount of the additional "mark up" on cost of merchandise, levied by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board subsequent to June 30, 1983, shall be designated to the credit of the General Fund of the state.

"(c) The board shall be prohibited from increasing the mark up on wholesale case lot sales of liquor and fortified wine above 16.99 percent of the cost plus freight subsequent to December 1, 2004.

"\$28-3-187.1.

"Any laws or parts of laws to the contrary notwithstanding, no manufacturer, importer or wholesaler licensee of fortified wine and vinous liquor and brandy, as defined by Section 28-3-1, shall be required to comply with the provisions of Section 28-3-187, nor any other provisions of laws, rules, or regulations relating to the state labeling of certain containers of alcoholic beverages by such manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler licensees.

"§28-3A-8.

"Upon applicant's compliance with the provisions of this chapter and the regulations made thereunder, the board shall issue to applicant a liquor wholesale license which shall authorize the licensee to import and receive shipments of liquor or wine from outside the state from licensed manufacturers and to sell at wholesale or distribute liquor or wine to the board or as authorized by the board except a liquor wholesale licensee may not sell liquor or fortified wine to retail licensees of the board. Sales shall be in original packages or containers as prepared for the market by the manufacturer or bottler. No person shall sell at wholesale or distribute liquor or wine within this state to the board or as authorized by the board unless such person shall be issued a liquor wholesale license by the board."

"\$28-7-16.

- "(a) Levy. There is hereby levied in addition to the license taxes provided for by this chapter and municipal and county license taxes and in addition to any marked-up price made by the board on wine sold by the board a privilege or excise tax measured by and graduated in accordance with the volume of sales of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume and shall be an amount equal to forty-five cents (\$.45) per liter of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold to the wholesale licensee or board, to be collected from the purchaser by the board or by a licensed retailer.
- (b) Collection, Monthly Return, Remittance, Right to Examine Books and Records. (1) The tax levied by subsection (a) shall be added to the sales price of all table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold and shall be collected from the

purchasers. The tax shall be collected in the first instance from the wholesaler where table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume is sold or handled by wholesale licensees, and by the board from whomever makes sales when table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume is sold by the board. It shall be unlawful for any person who is required to pay the tax in the first instance to fail or refuse to add to the sales price and collect from the purchaser the required amount of tax, it being the intent and purpose of this provision that the tax levied is in fact a levy on the consumer. The person who pays the tax in the first instance is acting as an agent of the state for the collection and payment of the tax and as such may not collect a tax on table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume for any other level of government.

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monthly return, which shall be filed by the wholesale licensees as follows: A monthly return filed with the board not later than the 15th day of the second month following the month of receipt of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume by the wholesaler on a form prescribed by the board showing receipts by the wholesalers from manufacturer, importer, or other wholesaler licensees during the month of receipt and the taxes due thereon at the rate of thirty-eight cents (\$.38) per liter

of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold to the wholesale licensee or board; the taxes due at such rate shall be remitted to the board along with the return; a monthly return filed with the county or municipality within which the wine is sold at retail filed not later than the 15th day of each month showing sales by wholesalers during the preceding month and the county or municipality in which sold and the taxes due thereon at the rate of seven cents (\$.07) per liter of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold; and the taxes due at such rate shall be remitted to the county or municipality along with the return.

(3) The tax hereby levied shall be collected by the board on the table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold by the board and shall be paid as follows: Taxes at the rate of thirty-eight cents (\$.38) per liter of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold shall be remitted by the board to the State Treasurer and taxes at the rate of seven cents (\$.07) per liter of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold shall be remitted by the board to the county or municipality within which the wine was sold at retail not later than the last day of the month following the month of sale, as set forth in subsection (c).

(4) The board and the governing body of each county and municipality served by the wholesaler shall have the authority to examine the books and records of any person who sells, stores, or receives for the purpose of distribution any table wine, containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume to determine the accuracy of any return required to be filed with it.

- (c) Disposition of proceeds. The proceeds of the tax levied by subsection (a) shall be paid and distributed as follows:
- (1) Thirty-eight cents (\$.38) per liter of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold shall be collected by the board on its sales or paid to the board by wholesale licensees on their sales, and by the board paid to the State Treasurer to be credited as net profits from operation of the board to be distributed as provided by law.
- (2) Seven cents (\$.07) per liter of table wine containing not more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold shall be paid by the board on its sales or by wholesale licensees on their sales, either into the treasury of the municipality in which the table wine was sold at retail within its corporate limits, or, where sold outside the corporate limits of any municipality, into the treasury of the county in which the table wine was sold at retail.
- (d) There is hereby levied in addition to the license taxes provided for by this chapter and municipal and

county license taxes and in addition to any marked-up price
made by the board on wine sold by the board a privilege or
excise tax measured by and graduated in accordance with the
volume of sales of table wine containing more than sixteen and
one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume. The tax shall be
an amount equal to two dollars and forty-two cents (\$2.42) per
liter of table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half
percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold to the wholesale
licensee or board, to be collected from the purchaser by the
board or by a licensed retailer.

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(e) Collection, Monthly Return, Remittance, Right to Examine Books and Records. (1) The tax levied by subsection (d) shall be added to the sales price of all table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold and shall be collected from the purchasers. The tax shall be collected in the first instance from the wholesaler where table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume is sold or handled by wholesale licensees, and by the board from whomever makes sales when table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume is sold by the board. It shall be unlawful for any person who is required to pay the tax in the first instance to fail or refuse to add to the sales price and collect from the purchaser the required amount of tax, it being the intent and purpose of this provision that the tax levied is in fact a levy on the consumer. The person who pays the tax in the first

instance is acting as an agent of the state for the collection

and payment of the tax and as such may not collect a tax on

table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent

(16.5%) alcohol by volume for any other level of government.

(2) The tax levied in subsection (d) shall be collected by a monthly return, which shall be filed by the wholesale licensees with the board not later than the 15th day of the second month following the month of receipt of table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume by the wholesaler on a form prescribed by the board showing receipts by the wholesalers from manufacturer, importer, or other wholesaler licensees during the month of receipt and the taxes due thereon at the rate of two dollars and forty-two cents (\$2.42) per liter of table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold to the wholesale licensee or board; the taxes due at such rate shall be remitted to the board along with the return.

(3) The tax levied in subsection (d) shall be collected by the board on table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold by the board and shall be paid as follows: Taxes at the rate of two dollars and forty-two cents (\$2.42) per liter of table wine containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%) alcohol by volume sold shall be remitted by the board to the State Treasurer.

1	(4) The board shall have the authority to examine
2	the books and records of any person who sells, stores, or
3	receives for the purpose of distribution any table wine
4	containing more than sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%)
5	alcohol by volume, to determine the accuracy of any return
6	required to be filed with it.
7	(f) Disposition of proceeds. The proceeds of the tax
8	levied by subsection (d) shall be paid and distributed as
9	follows:
10	(1) Thirty-seven percent (37%) to the Alcoholic
11	Beverage Control Board.
12	(2) Thirty-four percent (34%) to the State General
13	Fund.
14	(3) Twenty and eight-tenths percent (20.8%) to the
15	Department of Human Resources.
16	(4) Eight and two-tenths percent (8.2%) to the
17	Department of Mental Health.
18	(d) (e) Taxes exclusive. The tax taxes herein levied
19	is are exclusive and shall be in lieu of all other and
20	additional taxes and licenses of the state, county, or
21	municipality, imposed on or measured by the sale or volume of
22	sale of table wine; provided, that nothing herein contained
23	shall be construed to exempt the retail sale of table wine
24	from the levy of tax on general retail sales by the state,
25	county, or municipality in the nature of, or in lieu of, a
26	general sales tax.

1 (e) (f) Trade between wholesalers exempt. The tax 2 taxes levied by subsections (a) and (d) shall not be imposed upon the sale, trade, or barter of table wine by one licensed 3 wholesaler to another wholesaler licensed to sell and handle table wine in this state, which transaction is hereby made 5 exempt from said tax; provided, however, the board may require 6 written reporting of any such transaction in the form as the 7 board may prescribe. 8 Section 2. Section 28-7-2, Code of Alabama 1975, is 9 10 repealed. Section 3. This act shall become effective on the 11 12 first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law. 13