A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to beverage regulation; to amend sections 53-103.09, 53-103.18, 53-103.20, 53-103.41, 53-123.01, 53-124.11, 53-125, 53-129, 53-131.01, 53-132, 53-168.06, 53-169, 53-171, 53-175, 53-178, 53-187, 53-194.03, and 53-1,100, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 53-123.14, 53-123.17, and 53-124.12, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, and sections 53-103.44, 53-123.15, 53-124, 53-124.01, and 53-135, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015; to create and provide powers and duties for the Nebraska Craft Brewery Board; to create the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund; to impose and provide for fees; to require reports; to redefine terms; to provide for and change licensure provisions for certain manufacturers and retailers; to change disposition of manufacturers' license fees as prescribed; to eliminate provisions regarding licensure in annexed areas; to change prohibitions related to selling and serving alcoholic liquor; to eliminate provisions relating to purchases by retailers as prescribed; to place restrictions on manufacturing and sales at wholesale; to change penalty provisions related to nonbeverage users and manufacturing spirits without a license; to eliminate the prohibition and penalty on the sale of carbonated soft drink or beer cans with removable, disposable tabs or grips as prescribed; to change provisions relating to the limits on bringing alcoholic liquor into the state for personal consumption; to change a requirement for eligibility to obtain a license; to harmonize provisions; to provide severability; to repeal the original sections; to outright repeal section 28-1479, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Nebraska Craft Brewery Board is created. All board members shall be (a) citizens of Nebraska, (b) at least twenty-one years of age, and (c) either engaged in or previously engaged in the manufacture or the wholesale or retail sale of beer in this state or engaged or previously engaged in the production in this state of agricultural products that are utilized in the brewing process. The board shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor on a nonpartisan basis. At least two board members shall be selected by the Governor from a list of no fewer than ten candidates submitted by the Nebraska Craft Brewers Guild or its successor organization. In addition, at least two board members shall be selected by the Governor from a list of no fewer than ten candidates submitted by the Associated Beverage Distributors of Nebraska or its successor organization. The Director of Agriculture or his or her designee and the executive director of the Nebraska Tourism Commission or his or her designee shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the board.

(2) Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board for any reason, the Governor shall appoint an individual to fill such vacancy pursuant to the qualifications set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

Sec. 2. (1) Within thirty days after the appointment of the initial members of the Nebraska Craft Brewery Board, such board shall conduct its first regular meeting. During that meeting, the board members shall elect from among themselves, by majority vote, a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and treasurer, all to serve for terms of one year from the date of election. Subsequent board meetings shall take place at least once every six months and at such times as called by the chairperson or by any three board members.

(2) Each member shall serve for a term of three years and may be reappointed.

(3) All voting members of the board shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of official responsibilities as members of such board pursuant to sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(4) A member may be removed by the Governor for cause. The member shall first be given a written copy of the charges against him or her and also an opportunity to be heard publicly. If a member moves out of Nebraska, that shall be deemed sufficient cause for removal from office.

Sec. 3. The Nebraska Craft Brewery Board has the following powers and duties:

(1) Establish a public forum to provide any manufacturer of beer or producer of agricultural products used in the brewing process the opportunity, at least once annually, to discuss with the board its policies and procedures, and the policies and procedures of its members and other stakeholders in the industry, which will clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the board and to make these records available for examination upon request by members of the public;

(2) Authorize and approve the expenditure of funds collected pursuant to section 4 of this act;

(3) Serve as an advisory panel to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission in all matters pertaining to the beer industry; and

(4) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out sections 1 to
5 of this act.

Sec. 4. (1) The Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund is created. The fund shall consist of money credited pursuant to this section, fees received from shipping licenses issued to beer manufacturers pursuant to subsection (2) of section 53-123.15, gifts, grants, bequests, and any money appropriated by the Legislature. For administrative purposes, the fund shall be located in the Department of Agriculture.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2016, in addition to the annual license fee imposed by section 53-124.01, each holder of a craft brewery license shall pay an annual fee in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission or shall opt out of paying the additional fee on forms provided by the commission. Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund.

(3) The Department of Agriculture, at the direction of and in cooperation with the Nebraska Craft Brewery Board, shall use the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund to develop and maintain programs for the research and advancement of the beer brewing process, the marketing and promotion of the beer industry in Nebraska, and the marketing and promotion of agricultural products and their byproducts grown and produced in Nebraska for use in the beer industry. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited to, all necessary funding for the employment of experts in the field of beer brewing and business development, as deemed necessary by the board, and programs to carry out the purposes of this subsection. None of the money credited to the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund may be used for lobbying purposes.

(4) Money in the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund not expended during any fiscal year may be reappropriated for the ensuing biennium. Any money in the Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 5. (1) The Nebraska Craft Brewery Board shall publish an annual report on or before January 1 of each year which shall set forth in detail the following:

(a) The name and address of each board member and a copy of all rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board; and

(b) A detailed explanation of all programs for which the board approved funding during the most recently completed fiscal year pursuant to section 4 of this act.

(2) Each annual report shall be presented electronically to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission within thirty days after its publication and made available also to any person who requests a copy. Except for the annual copy required by this section to be provided to the commission, the board may charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of printing and postage for making available copies of its annual reports.

Sec. 6. Section 53-103.09, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-103.09 (1) Club means a corporation (a) which is organized under the laws of this state, not for pecuniary profit, solely for the promotion of some common object other than the sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor, (b) which is not wholly owned by its members through the payment of annual dues, and (c) which owns, hires, or leases a building or space in a building suitable and adequate for the reasonable and comfortable use and accommodation of its members and their guests, and (d) which has suitable and adequate kitchen and dining room space and equipment and a sufficient number of servants and employees for cooking, preparing, and serving food and meals for its members and their guests.

(2) The affairs and management of such club shall be conducted by a board of directors, executive committee, or similar body chosen by the members at their annual meeting, and no member, officer, agent, or employee of the club shall be paid or shall directly or indirectly receive, in the form of salary or other compensation, any profits from the distribution or sale of alcoholic liquor to the club or the members of the club or its guests introduced by members other than any salary fixed and voted at any annual meeting by the members or by the governing body of the club out of the general revenue of the club.

Sec. 7. Section 53-103.18, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-103.18 Manager means a person appointed by a corporation or limited liability company to oversee the daily operation of the business licensed in Nebraska. A manager shall meet all the requirements of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act as though he or she were the applicant, including residency and citizenship.

Sec. 8. Section 53-103.20, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-103.20 Manufacturer means every brewer, fermenter, distiller, rectifier, winemaker, blender, processor, bottler, restaurant, hotel, or person who fills or refills an original package and others engaged in brewing, fermenting, distilling, rectifying, or bottling alcoholic liquor, including a wholly owned affiliate or duly authorized agent for a manufacturer.

Sec. 9. Section 53-103.41, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-103.41 Wholesaler means a person importing or causing to be imported into the state or purchasing or causing to be purchased within the state
alcoholic liquor for sale or resale to retailers licensed under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, whether the business of the wholesaler is conducted under the corporate form of arrangement with the manufacturer or manufacturers, or who has caused alcoholic liquor to be imported into the state or purchased in the state from a manufacturer or manufacturers and was licensed to conduct such a business by the commission on May 1, 1970, or has been so licensed since that date.

9. The wholesaler does not include any retailer licensed to sell alcoholic liquor for consumption off the premises who sells alcoholic liquor other than beer or wine to another retailer pursuant to section 53-175, except that such retailer shall obtain the required federal wholesaler’s basic permit and federal wholesale liquor dealer’s special tax stamp. Wholesaler includes a distributor, distributorship, and jobber.

10. Section 53-103.44, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:

53-103.44 Hard cider means still wine (1) (a) (1)(a)(i) derived primarily from apples or apple concentrate and water such that apple juice, or the equivalent amount of concentrate reconstituted to the original brix of the juice prior to concentration, represents more than fifty percent of the volume of the artificial product which imparts a fruit flavor other than apple or (b) (b)(i) derived primarily from pears or pear concentrate and water such that pear juice, or the equivalent amount of concentrate reconstituted to the original brix of the juice prior to concentration, represents more than fifty percent of the volume of the finished product and (ii) containing no other fruit product or any artificial product which imparts a fruit flavor other than apple or (b) (b)(i) derived primarily from pears or pear concentrate and water such that pear juice, or the equivalent amount of concentrate reconstituted to the original brix of the juice prior to concentration, represents more than fifty percent of the volume of the finished product and (ii) containing no other fruit product or any artificial product which imparts a fruit flavor other than pear, (2) containing at least one-half of one percent and less than eight and one-half percent alcohol by volume, (3) having the taste, aroma, and characteristics generally attributed to hard cider, and (4) sold or offered for sale as hard cider.

11. Section 53-123.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-123.01 (1) A manufacturer's license shall allow the manufacture, storage, and wholesale of alcoholic beverages to such persons outside the state as may be permitted by law, except that nothing in the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall prohibit a manufacturer from distributing tax-paid samples of beer at the premises of a licensed manufacturer for consumption on the premises. A manufacturer's license issued pursuant to this section shall be the only license required by the Nebraska Liquor Control Act for the manufacture and retail sale of beer manufactured on the licensed premises for consumption on the licensed premises.

(2)(a) A licensee who or which first obtains a craft brewery license pursuant to section 53-123.14, holds such license for not less than three years, and operates a brewpub or microbrewery on the licensed premises of such craft brewery license shall obtain a manufacturer's license when the manufacture of beer on the licensed premises exceeds twenty thousand barrels per year. The manufacturer's license shall authorize the continued retail sale of beer for consumption on or off the premises but only to the extent the premises has a craft brewery license and is operated by or on behalf of another person other than beer manufactured by the licensee, wine, or alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises shall require the appropriate retail license. The holder of such manufacturer's license may continue to operate up to five retail locations which are in operation at the time such manufacturer’s license is issued and shall divest itself from retail locations in excess of five. The licensee shall not begin operation at any new retail location even if the licensee’s production is reduced below twenty thousand barrels per year.

(b) The holder of such manufacturer’s license may obtain an annual catering license pursuant to section 53-124.12, a special designated license pursuant to section 53-124.11, or an entertainment district license pursuant to section 53-123.17.

12. Section 53-123.14, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, is amended to read:

53-123.14 Any person who operates a craft brewery shall obtain a license pursuant to Nebraska Liquor Control Act. A craft brewery license to operate a craft brewery shall permit the production of a brewpub or microbrewery to produce on the craft brewery premises a maximum of twenty thousand barrels of beer per year in the aggregate from all physical locations comprising the licensed premises.

A craft brewery may also sell to beer wholesalers for sale and distribution to licensed retailers. A craft brewery license issued pursuant to this section shall be the only license required by the Nebraska Liquor Control Act for the manufacture and retail sale of beer for consumption on or off the licensed premises, except that the sale of any beer other than beer manufactured by the craft brewery licensee, wine, or alcoholic liquor by the drink for consumption on the licensed craft brewery premises shall require the appropriate retail license held by the operator of a craft brewery shall be subject to the act. A holder of a craft brewery license may obtain an annual catering license pursuant to section 53-124.12, a special designated license pursuant to section 53-124.11, or an entertainment district license pursuant to section 53-123.17. For purposes of this section, licensed premises may include up to five separate physical locations.

13. Section 53-123.15, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:
(a) To comply with and be bound by sections 53-162 and 53-164.01 in making and filing reports, paying taxes, penalties, and interest, and keeping records;

(b) To permit and be subject to all of the powers granted by section 53-164.01 to the commission or its duly authorized employees or agents for inspection and examination of the applicant’s premises and records, and for payment of the actual expenses, excluding salary, reasonably attributable to such inspections and examinations made by duly authorized employees of the commission if within the United States; and

(c) That if the applicant violates any of the provisions of the application or the license, any section of the act, or any of the rules and regulations of the commission that apply to manufacturers, the commission may suspend, cancel, or revoke such shipping license for such period of time as it may determine.

(7) The application for a shipping license under subsection (4) or (5) of this section shall be in such form as the commission prescribes. The application shall require an applicant which is a manufacturer, a craft brewery, a craft distillery, or a farm winery to identify the brands of alcoholic liquor that the applicant is requesting the authority to ship either into or within Nebraska. For all applicants, unless otherwise provided in this section, vintage wine shall mean a wine verified to be ten years of age or older and not available from a primary American source of supply. A person who receives a license pursuant to this subsection shall pay the fee required in sections 53-124 and 53-124.01 for a vintage wine dealer’s shipping license. Such fee shall be collected by the commission and be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the General Fund.

(3) The commission may issue a shipping license to any person who deals with vintage wines, which shipping license shall allow the licensee to distribute such wines to a licensed wholesaler in the state. For purposes of this section, vintage wine shall mean a wine verified to be ten years of age or older and not available from a primary American source of supply. A person who receives a license pursuant to this subsection shall pay the fee required in sections 53-124 and 53-124.01 for a vintage wine dealer’s shipping license. Such fee shall be collected by the commission and be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Winery and Grape Producers Promotional Fund.

(4) The commission may issue a shipping license to any manufacturer who sells and ships alcoholic liquor from another state directly to a consumer in this state if the manufacturer satisfies the requirements of subsections (7) through (9) of this section. A manufacturer who receives a license pursuant to this subsection shall pay the fee required in sections 53-124 and 53-124.01 for a manufacture direct sales shipping license. Such fee shall be collected by the commission and remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Winery and Grape Producers Promotional Fund.

(6) The application for a shipping license under subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be in such form as the commission prescribes. The application shall contain all provisions the commission deems proper and necessary to effectuate the purpose of any section of the act and the rules and regulations of the commission that apply to manufacturers and shall include, but not be limited to, provisions that the applicant, in consideration of the issuance of such shipping license, agrees:

(a) To comply with and be bound by sections 53-162 and 53-164.01 in making and filing reports, paying taxes, penalties, and interest, and keeping records;

(b) To permit and be subject to all of the powers granted by section 53-164.01 to the commission or its duly authorized employees or agents for inspection and examination of the applicant’s premises and records, and for payment of the actual expenses, excluding salary, reasonably attributable to such inspections and examinations made by duly authorized employees of the commission if within the United States; and

(c) That if the applicant violates any of the provisions of the application or the license, any section of the act, or any of the rules and regulations of the commission that apply to manufacturers, the commission may suspend, cancel, or revoke such shipping license for such period of time as it may determine.
application or the license, any section of the act, or any of the rules and regulations of the commission that apply to manufacturers or retailers, the commission may suspend, cancel, or revoke such shipping license for such period of time as it may determine;

(d) That the applicant agrees to notify the commission of any violations in the state in which he or she is domiciled and any violations of the direct shipping laws of any other states. Failure to notify the commission within thirty days after such a violation may result in a hearing before the commission pursuant to which the license may be suspended, canceled, or revoked;

(e) That the applicant, if a manufacturer, craft brewery, craft distillery, or farm winery, agrees to notify any wholesaler licensed in Nebraska that has been authorized to distribute such brands that the application has been filed for a shipping license. The notice shall be in writing and in a form prescribed by the commission. The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations as it reasonably deems necessary to implement this subdivision, including rules and regulations that permit the holder of a shipping license under this subdivision to amend the shipping license by adding or deleting any brands of alcoholic liquor identified in the shipping license.

(8) Any manufacturer or retailer who is granted a shipping license under subsection (4) or (5) of this section shall:

(a) Only ship the brands of alcoholic liquor identified on the application;

(b) Only ship alcoholic liquor that is owned by the holder of the shipping license;

(c) Only ship alcoholic liquor that is properly registered with the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau of the United States Department of the Treasury;

(d) Not ship any alcoholic liquor products that the manufacturers or wholesalers licensed in Nebraska have voluntarily agreed not to bring into Nebraska at the request of the commission;

(e) Not ship more than nine liters of alcoholic liquor per month to any person in Nebraska to whom alcoholic beverages may be lawfully sold. All such sales and shipments shall be for personal consumption only and not for resale; and

(f) Cause the direct shipment of alcoholic liquor to be by approved common carrier only. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to which common carriers may apply for approval to provide common carriage of alcoholic liquor shipped by a holder of a shipping license issued pursuant to subsection (4) or (5) of this section. The rules and regulations shall include provisions that require (i) the recipient to demonstrate, upon delivery, that he or she is at least twenty-one years of age, (ii) the recipient to sign an electronic or paper form or other acknowledgement of receipt as approved by the commission, and (iii) the commission-approved common carrier to submit to the commission such information as the commission may prescribe. The commission-approved common carrier shall refuse delivery when the proposed recipient appears to be under the age of twenty-one years and refuses to present valid identification. All holders of shipping licenses shipping alcoholic liquor pursuant to this subdivision shall affix a conspicuous notice in sixteen-point type or larger to the outside of each package of alcoholic liquor shipped within or into the State of Nebraska, in a conspicuous location, stating: CONTAINS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; SIGNATURE OF PERSON AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY. Any delivery of alcoholic liquor to a minor by a common carrier shall constitute a violation by the common carrier. The common carrier and the holder of the shipping license shall be liable only for their independent acts.

(9) For purposes of sections 53-160, 77-2703, and 77-27,142, each shipment of alcoholic liquor by the holder of a shipping license under subsection (3), (4), or (5) of this section shall constitute a sale in Nebraska by establishing a nexus in the state. The holder of the shipping license shall collect all the taxes due to the State of Nebraska and any political subdivision and remit any excise taxes monthly to the commission and any sales taxes to the Department of Revenue.

(10) By July 1, 2014, the commission shall report to the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature the number of shipping licenses issued for license years 2013-14 and 2014-15. The report shall be made electronically.

Sec. 14. Section 53-123.17, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, is amended to read:

53-123.17 (1) A local governing body may designate an entertainment district in which a commons area may be used by retail, craft brewery, and microdistillery licensees and holders of a manufacturer's license which obtain an entertainment district license. The local governing body may, at any time, revoke such designation if it finds that the commons area threatens the health, safety, or welfare of the public or has become a common nuisance. The local governing body shall file the designation or the revocation of the designation with the commission.

(2) An entertainment district license allows the sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises within the confines of a commons area. The consumption of alcoholic liquor in the commons area shall only occur during the hours authorized for sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises under section 53-179 and while food service is available in the commons area. Only the holder of an entertainment district license or employees of such
licensee may sell or dispense alcoholic liquor in the commons area.

(3) An entertainment district licensee shall serve alcoholic liquor to be consumed in containers that prominently displays the licensee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the licensee under the licensee's retail license, craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or manufacturer's license. An entertainment district licensee may allow alcohol sold by another entertainment district licensee to enter the licensed premises of either licensee. No entertainment district licensee shall allow alcoholic liquor to leave the commons area or the premises licensed under its retail license, craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or manufacturer's license.

(4) If the licensed premises of the holder of a license to sell alcoholic liquor at retail issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124, a craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or a manufacturer's license is adjacent to a common area in an entertainment district designated by a local governing body pursuant to this section, the holder of the license may obtain an annual entertainment district license as prescribed in this section. The entertainment district license shall be issued for the same period and may be renewed in the same manner as the retail license, craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or manufacturer's license.

(5) In order to obtain an entertainment district license, a person eligible under subsection (4) of this section shall:

(a) File an application with the commission upon such forms as the commission prescribes; and

(b) Pay an additional license fee of three hundred dollars for the privilege of serving alcohol in the entertainment district payable to the clerk of the local governing body in the same manner as license fees under subdivision (4) of section 53-134.

(6) When an application for an entertainment district license is filed, the commission shall notify the clerk of the local governing body. The commission shall include with such notice one copy of the application by mail or electronic delivery. The local governing body and the commission shall process the application in the same manner as provided in section 53-132.

(7) The local governing body may regulate by ordinance, not inconsistent with the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, any area it designates as an entertainment district.

(8) The local governing body within its liquor license jurisdiction as provided in subdivision (11)(b) of this section may cancel an entertainment district license for cause for the remainder of the period for which such entertainment district license is issued. Any person whose entertainment district license is canceled may appeal to the commission in accordance with section 53-134.

(9) A local governing body may regulate by ordinance, not inconsistent with the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, any area it designates as an entertainment district.

(10) Violation of any provision of this section or any rules or regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section by an entertainment district licensee may be cause to revoke, cancel, or suspend the retail license issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124, a craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or manufacturer's license held by such licensee.

(11) For purposes of this section:

(a) Commons area means an area:

(i) Within an entertainment district designated by a local governing body;

(ii) Shared by authorized licensees with entertainment district licenses;

(iii) Abutting the licensed premises of such licensees;

(iv) Having limited pedestrian accessibility by use of a physical barrier, either on a permanent or temporary basis; and

(v) Closed to vehicular traffic when used as a commons area.

Commons areas may include any area of a public or private right-of-way if the area otherwise meets the requirements of this section; and

(b) Local governing body means the governing body of the city or village in which the entertainment district license is located.

Sec. 15. Section 53-124, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:

53-124 (1) At the time application is made to the commission for a license of any type, the applicant shall pay the fee provided in section 53-124.01 and, if the applicant is an individual, provide the applicant's social security number. The commission shall issue the types of licenses described in this section.

(2) There shall be an airline license, a boat license, a pedal-pub vehicle license, and a railroad license. The commission shall charge one dollar for each duplicate of an airline license, a pedal-pub vehicle license, or a railroad license.

(3)(a) There shall be a manufacturer's license for alcohol and spirits, for beer, and for wine. The annual fee for a manufacturer's license for beer shall be based on the barrel daily capacity as follows:

(i) 1 to 100 barrel daily capacity, or any part thereof, tier one;

(ii) 100 to 150 barrel daily capacity, tier two;

(iii) 150 to 200 barrel daily capacity, tier three;

(iv) 200 to 300 barrel daily capacity, tier four;

(v) 300 to 400 barrel daily capacity, tier five;
(vi) 400 to 500 barrel daily capacity, tier six;
(vii) 500 barrel daily capacity, or more, tier seven.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, daily capacity means the average daily barrel production for the previous twelve months of manufacturing operation. If no such basis for comparison exists, the manufacturing licensee shall pay in advance for the first year's operation a fee of five hundred dollars.

(4) There shall be five classes of nonbeverage users' licenses: Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, and Class 5.

(5) In lieu of a manufacturer's, a retailer's, or a wholesaler's license, there shall be a license to operate issued for a craft brewery, a farm winery, or a microdistillery.

(6)(a) There shall be six classes of retail licenses:
(i) Class A: Beer only, for consumption on the premises;
(ii) Class B: Beer only, for consumption off the premises, sales in the original packages only;
(iii) Class C: Alcoholic liquor, for consumption on the premises and off the premises, sales in original packages only. If a Class C license is held by a nonprofit corporation, it shall be restricted to consumption on the premises only. A Class C license may have a sampling designation restricting consumption on the premises to sampling, but such designation shall not affect sales for consumption off the premises under such license;
(iv) Class D: Alcoholic liquor, including beer, for consumption off the premises, sales in the original packages only, except as provided in subdivision (6)(a)(vi) of this section and subsection (2) of section 53-123.04;
(v) Class I: Alcoholic liquor, for consumption on the premises; and
(vi) Class J: Alcoholic liquor, including beer, for consumption off the premises, whose annual gross revenue from the sale of alcohol does not exceed twenty percent of the licensee's total annual gross revenue from all retail sales.

(b) All applicable license fees shall be paid by the applicant or licensee directly to the city or village treasurer in the case of premises located inside the corporate limits of a city or village and directly to the county treasurer in the case of premises located outside the corporate limits of a city or village.

(7) There shall be four types of shipping licenses as described in section 53-123.15: Manufacturers, vintage wines, manufacture direct sales, and retail direct sales.

(8) There shall be two types of wholesale licenses: Alcoholic liquor and beer only. The annual fee shall be paid for the first and each additional wholesale place of business operated in this state by the same licensee and wholesaling the same product.

(9) The license year, unless otherwise provided in the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, shall commence on May 1 of each year and shall end on the following April 30, except that the license year for a Class C license shall commence on November 1 of each year and shall end on the following October 31. During the license year, no license shall be issued for a sum less than the amount of the annual license fee as fixed in section 53-124.01, regardless of the time when the application for such license has been made, except that (a) when there is a purchase of an existing licensed business and a new license of the same class is issued or (b) upon the issuance of a new license for a location which has not been previously licensed, the license fee and occupation taxes shall be prorated on a quarterly basis as of the date of issuance.

Sec. 16. Section 53-124.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:
53-124.01 (1) The fees for annual licenses finally issued by the commission shall be as provided in this section and section 53-124.
(2) Airline license ... $100
(3) Boat license ... $50
(4) Manufacturer's license:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Fee - In Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and spirits</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier one</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier two</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier three</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier four</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier five</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier six</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer - tier seven</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class | Fee - In Dollars
--- | ---
Class 1 | 5
Class 2 | 25
Class 3 | 50
Class 4 | 100
Class 5 | 250

(6) Operator's license:

Class | Fee - In Dollars
--- | ---
Craft brewery | 250
Farm winery | 250
Microdistillery | 250

(7) Pedal-pub vehicle license... $50
(8) Railroad license... $100

(9) Retail license:

Class | Fee - In Dollars
--- | ---
Class A | 100
Class B | 100
Class C | 300
Class D | 200
Class I | 250
Class J | 50

(10) Shipping license:

Class | Fee - In Dollars
--- | ---
Manufacturer | 1,000
Vintage wines | 1,000
Manufacture direct sales | 500
Retail direct sales | 500

(11) Wholesale license:

Class | Fee - In Dollars
--- | ---
Alcoholic liquor | 750
Beer | 500

Sec. 17. Section 53-124.11, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-124.11 (1) The commission may issue a special designated license for sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor at a designated location to a retail licensee, a craft brewery licensee, a microdistillery licensee, a farm winery licensee, the holder of a manufacturer's license issued pursuant to subsection (2) of section 53-123.01, a municipal corporation, a fine arts museum incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, a religious nonprofit corporation which has been exempted from the payment of federal income taxes, a political organization which has been exempted from the payment of federal income taxes, or any other nonprofit corporation the purpose of which is fraternal, charitable, or public service and which has been exempted from the payment of federal income taxes, under conditions specified in this section. The applicant shall demonstrate meeting the requirements of this subsection.

(2) No retail licensee, craft brewery licensee, microdistillery licensee, farm winery licensee, holder of a manufacturer's license issued pursuant to subsection (2) of section 53-123.01, organization, or corporation enumerated in subsection (1) of this section may be issued a special designated license under this section for more than six calendar days in any one calendar year. Only one special designated license shall be required for any application for two or more consecutive days. This subsection shall not apply to any holder of a catering license.

(3) Except for any special designated license issued to a holder of a
catering license, there shall be a fee of forty dollars for each day identified in the special designated license. Such fee shall be submitted with the application. If the special designated license is not granted, the fee shall be returned to the State Treasurer for credit to the General Fund. The applicant shall be exempt from the provisions of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act requiring an application or renewal fee and the provisions of the act requiring the expiration of forty-five days from the time the application is received by the commission prior to the issuance of a license, if granted by the commission. The catering license shall be issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124, a craft brewery license, or a microdistillery license, or a farm winery license, or a manufacturer's license issued under subsection (2) of section 53-123.01. Issuance of the license to the applicant upon receipt of any fee or tax imposed by such city, village, or county.

(a) An application in triplicate original upon such forms as the commission specifies; and
(b) A license fee of one hundred dollars payable to the commission, which fee shall be returned to the applicant if the application is denied.

(3) When an application for a catering license is filed, the commission shall notify the clerk of the city or incorporated village in which such applicant is located, of the receipt of the application. The commission shall include with such notice one copy of the application by mail or electronic delivery. The local governing body and the commission shall process the application in the same manner as provided in section 53-132.

(4) The local governing body with respect to catering licensees within its liquor license jurisdiction as provided in subsection (5) of this section may cancel a catering license for cause for the remainder of the period for which the activity will be supervised by persons or managers who are agents of and directly responsible to the holder of the special designated license.

(5) If the applicant meets the requirements of this section, a special designated license shall be granted and issued by the commission for use by the holder of the special designated license. All statutory provisions and rules and regulations of the commission that apply to a retail licensee shall apply to the holder of a special designated license with the exception of such statutory provisions and rules and regulations of the commission so designated by the commission and stated upon the issued special designated license, except that the commission may not designate exemption of sections 53-180 to 53-186. Any person desiring to obtain a catering license shall file an application on such forms as the commission may prescribe. Such forms shall contain, along with other information as required by the commission, (a) the name of the applicant, (b) the premises for which a special designated license is requested, identified by street and number if practicable and, if not, by some other appropriate description which definitely locates the premises, (c) the name of the person, group, organization, or corporation, for profit or not for profit, (d) a statement of the type of activity to be carried on during the time period for which a special designated license is requested, and (e) sufficient evidence that the activity will be supervised by persons or managers who are agents of and directly responsible to the holder of the special designated license. The local governing body may establish criteria for approving or denying a special designated license. The local governing body may designate an agent to determine whether a special designated license is to be approved or denied. Such agent shall follow criteria established by the local governing body in making such determination. The determination of the agent shall be considered the determination of the local governing body unless otherwise provided by the local governing body. For purposes of this section, the local governing body shall be the city or village within which the premises for which the special designated license is requested are located or, if such premises are not within the corporate limits of a city or village, then the local governing body shall be the county within which the premises for which the special designated license is requested are located.

(b) A license fee of one hundred dollars payable to the commission, which fee shall be returned to the applicant if the application is denied.

(6) A special designated license issued by the commission shall be mailed or delivered to the city, village, or county clerk who shall deliver such license to the licensee upon receipt of any fee or tax imposed by such city, village, or county.

Sec. 18. Section 53-124.12, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, is amended to read:

53-124.12 (1) The holder of a license to sell alcoholic liquor at retail issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124, a craft brewery license, or a microdistillery license, or a farm winery license, or a manufacturer's license issued under subsection (2) of section 53-123.01 may obtain an annual catering license as prescribed in this section. The catering license shall be issued for the same period and may be renewed in the same manner as the retail license, craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or farm winery license, or manufacturer's license.

(2) Any person desiring to obtain a catering license shall file with the commission:

(a) An application in triplicate original upon such forms as the commission prescribes; and
(b) A license fee of one hundred dollars payable to the commission, which fee shall be returned to the applicant if the application is denied.

(3) When an application for a catering license is filed, the commission shall notify the clerk of the city or incorporated village in which such applicant is located or, if the applicant is not located within a city or incorporated village, the clerk of the county in which such applicant is located, of the receipt of the application. The commission shall include with such notice one copy of the application by mail or electronic delivery. The local governing body and the commission shall process the application in the same manner as provided in section 53-132.

(4) The local governing body with respect to catering licensees within its liquor license jurisdiction as provided in subsection (5) of this section may cancel a catering license for cause for the remainder of the period for which
such catering license is issued. Any person whose catering license is canceled may appeal to the district court of the county in which the local governing body is located.

(5) For purposes of this section, local governing body means (a) the governing body of the city or village in which the catering licensee is located or (b) if such licensee is not located within a city or village, the governing body of the county in which such licensee is located.

(6) They may impose an occupation tax on the business of a catering licensee doing business within the liquor license jurisdiction of the local governing body as provided in subsection (5) of this section. Such tax may not exceed double the license fee to be paid under this section.

Sec. 19. Section 53-125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-125 No license of any kind shall be issued to (1) a person who is not a resident of Nebraska, except in case of railroad, airline, or boat licenses, (2) a person who is not of good character and reputation in the community in which he or she resides, (3) a person who is not a Nebraska resident and legally resides in another state of which he or she is a citizen, (4) a person who has been convicted of or has pleaded guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States, (5) a person who has been convicted of or has pleaded guilty to any Class I misdemeanor pursuant to Chapter 28, article 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, or 12, or any similar offense under a prior criminal statute or in another state, except that any additional requirements imposed by this subdivision on May 18, 1988, shall not prevent any person holding a license or permit under such law from retaining or renewing such license if the conviction or plea occurred prior to May 18, 1988, (6) a person whose license issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act has been revoked for cause since the license was issued, (7) a person who at the time of application for renewal of any license issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act would be ineligible for such license, (8) a partnership, unless one of the partners is a resident of Nebraska and unless all of the members of such partnership are otherwise qualified to obtain a license, (9) a limited liability company, if any officer or director of the limited liability company or any member having an ownership interest in the aggregate more than twenty-five percent of such company would be ineligible to receive a license under this section for any reason other than the reasons stated in subdivisions (1) and (3) of this section, or if a manager of a limited liability company licensee would be ineligible to receive a license under this section for any reason, (10) a corporation, if any officer or director of such corporation or any stockholder owning in the aggregate more than twenty-five percent of the stock of such corporation would be ineligible to receive a license under this section for any reason other than the reasons stated in subdivisions (1) and (3) of this section, or if a manager of a corporate licensee would be ineligible to receive a license under this section for any reason. This subdivision shall not apply to railroad licenses, (11) a person whose place of business is conducted by a manager or agent unless such manager or agent possesses the same qualifications required of the licensee, (12) a person who does not own the premises for which a license is sought or does not have a lease or combination of leases on such premises for the full period for which the license is to be issued, (13) except as provided in (16), if the spouse or domestic partner of an applicant is ineligible to receive and hold a liquor license. Such applicant shall become eligible for a liquor license only if the commission finds from the evidence that the public interest will not be infringed upon if such license is granted. It shall be prima facie evidence that when a spouse is ineligible to receive a liquor license the applicant is ineligible to receive a liquor license. Such prima facie evidence shall be overcome if it is shown to the satisfaction of the commission (a) that the licensed business will be the sole property of the applicant and (b) that such licensed premises will be properly operated, (14) a person seeking a license for premises which do not meet standards for fire safety as established by the State Fire Marshal, (15) a law enforcement officer, except that this subdivision shall not prohibit a law enforcement officer from holding membership in any nonprofit organization holding a liquor license or from participating in any manner in the management or administration of a nonprofit organization, or (16) a person less than twenty-one years of age.

When a trustee is the licensee, the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the trust shall comply with the requirements of this section, but nothing in this section shall prohibit any such beneficiary from being a minor or a person who is mentally incompetent.

Sec. 20. Section 53-129, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-129 Retail, craft brewery, and microdistillery licenses issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act apply only to that part of the premises described in the application approved by the commission and in the license issued on the application. For retail and microdistillery licenses, and only one license shall be described in each license. For craft brewery licenses, up to five separate physical locations may be described in each license. After such license has been granted for particular premises, the commission, with the approval of the local governing body and upon proper showing, may endorse upon the license permission to add to, delete from, or abandon the premises described in such license and, if applicable, to move from the premises to other premises approved by it, but in order to obtain such approval the retail, craft brewery, or microdistillery licensee shall file with the local governing body...
Upon conviction thereof the license shall be revoked and the applicant on such business for himself or herself and not as the agent for any other
management of the business licensed and that if so licensed he or she will
projected growth;
with all provisions of this subdivision as though the manager were the
applicant, except that the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to
the spouse of a manager-applicant, (e) a statement that the applicant intends
to superintend in person the management of the business licensed and that if so licensed he or she will superintend in person the management of the business, and (g) such other information as the commission may from time to time direct. The applicant shall also subjected to the penalties provided by law for that crime.

The application shall be verified by the affidavit of the petitioner made before a notary public or other person duly authorized by law to administer oaths. If any false statement is made in any part of such application, the applicant or applicants shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof the license shall be revoked and the applicant subjected to the penalties provided by law for that crime.

The recommendation of the local governing body;
(b) The existence of a citizens' protest made in accordance with section 53-133;
(c) The existing population of the city, village, or county and its projected growth;
(d) The nature of the neighborhood or community of the location of the proposed licensed premises;
(e) The existence or absence of other retail licenses, craft brewery licenses, or microdistillery licenses with similar privileges within the neighborhood or community of the location of the proposed licensed premises or whether, as evidenced by substantive, corroborative documentation, the issuance of such license would result in or add to an undue concentration of licenses with similar privileges and, as a result, require the use of additional law enforcement resources;
(f) The existing motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises;
(g) The adequacy of existing law enforcement;
Sec. 23. Section 53-135, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:

53-135 A retail license issued by the commission and outstanding may be automatically renewed by the commission without formal application upon payment of the renewal fee and license fee if payable to the commission prior to or within thirty days after the expiration of the license. The payment shall be an affirmative representation and certification by the licensee that all answers contained in the last previous application, if submitted, would be the same in all material respects as the answers contained in the last previous application. The commission may at any time require a licensee to submit an application, and the commission shall at any time require a licensee to submit an application if requested in writing to do so by the local governing body.

If a licensee files an application form in triplicate original upon seeking renewal of his or her license, the application shall be processed as set forth in section 53-131.

Any licensed retail premises located in an area which is annexed to any governmental subdivision shall file a formal application for a license, and while such application is pending, the licensee may continue all license privileges until the original license expires or is canceled or revoked if such license expires within sixty days following the annexation date of such area, the license may be renewed by order of the commission for not more than one year.

Sec. 24. Section 53-168.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-168.06 No person shall manufacture, bottle, blend, sell, barter, transport, deliver, furnish, or possess any alcoholic liquor for beverage purposes except as specifically provided in the Nebraska Liquor Control Act. Nothing in the act shall prevent (1) the possession of alcoholic liquor legally obtained in the possession of the personal use of the possessor and his or her family and guests; (2) the making of wine, cider, or other alcoholic liquor by a person from fruits, vegetables, or grains, or the product thereof, by simple fermentation and without distillation, if made solely for the use of the maker and his or her family and guests; (3) any duly licensed practicing physician or dentist from possessing or using alcoholic liquor in the direct practice of his or her profession, any hospital or other institution caring for the sick and diseased persons from possessing and using alcoholic liquor for the treatment of bona fide patients of such hospital or other institution, or any drug store employing a licensed pharmacist from possessing or using alcoholic liquor of prescription; (4) the possession and dispensation of alcoholic liquor by an authorized representative of any religion on the premises of a place of worship, for the purpose of conducting any bona fide religious rite, ritual, or ceremony; (5) persons who are sixteen years old or older from carrying alcoholic liquor from licensed establishments when they are accompanied by a person not a minor; (6) persons who are sixteen years old or older from handling or serving alcoholic liquor in the course of their employment if they are not handling or serving alcoholic liquor; or (9) persons who are nineteen years old or older from serving alcoholic liquor in the course of their employment.

Sec. 25. Section 53-169, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-169 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no manufacturer or wholesaler shall directly or indirectly: (a) Pay for any...
license to sell alcoholic liquor at retail or advance, furnish, lend, or give money for payment of such license; (b) purchase or become the owner of any note, mortgage, or other evidence of indebtedness of such licensee or any form of security therefor; (c) be interested in the ownership, conduct, or operation of the business of any licensee authorized to sell alcoholic liquor at retail; or (d) be interested directly or indirectly or as owner, part owner, lessee, or lessor thereof in any premises upon which alcoholic liquor is sold at retail.

Sec. 24. Section 53-123.14 with respect to the manufacture, distribution, and retail sale of beer, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a craft brewery license to engage in the wholesale distribution of alcoholic liquors, the holder of a craft brewery license shall have the privileges and duties listed in section 53-123.14 with respect to the manufacture of alcoholic liquor, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a craft brewery license to engage in the wholesale distribution of alcoholic liquor.

Sec. 25. Section 53-171, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-171 No person licensed as a manufacturer or wholesaler of alcoholic liquor shall be permitted to receive any retail license at the same time. No person licensed as a manufacturer shall be permitted to receive any manufacturer's license at the same time except as set forth in subsection (2) of section 53-123.01 with respect to the manufacture, distribution, and retail sale of beer, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a manufacturer's license issued pursuant to such subsection to engage in the wholesale distribution of alcoholic liquor. No person licensed as a retailer of alcoholic liquor shall be permitted to receive any manufacturer's or wholesale license at the same time. This section shall not apply to the holder of a farm winery license. The holder of a craft brewery license shall have the privileges and duties listed in section 53-123.14 with respect to the manufacture, distribution, and retail sale of beer, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a craft brewery license to engage in the wholesale distribution of beer. The holder of a microdistillery license shall have the privileges and duties listed in section 53-123.16 with respect to the manufacture of alcoholic liquor, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a microdistillery license to engage in the wholesale distribution of alcoholic liquor.

Sec. 26. Section 53-175, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-175 It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase, receive, acquire, accept, or possess any alcoholic liquor acquired from any person other than one duly licensed to handle alcoholic liquor under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act unless within the specific exemptions or exceptions provided in the act. No licensed retailer of alcoholic liquor shall purchase such liquor other than from a licensed wholesaler who has his or her place of business within this state, except that a licensed retailer may purchase alcoholic liquor other than beer or wine from one or more retailers licensed to sell alcoholic liquor for consumption by the public except as set forth in subsection (2) of section 53-123.01 with respect to the manufacture, distribution, and retail sale of beer, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a farm winery license to engage in the wholesale distribution of beer. This section shall not apply to the holder of a microdistillery license. The holder of a craft brewery license shall have the privileges and duties listed in section 53-123.16 with respect to the manufacture of alcoholic liquor, and the Nebraska Liquor Control Act shall not be construed to permit the holder of a craft brewery license to engage in the wholesale distribution of alcoholic liquor.
Sec. 30. Section 53-194.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-194.03 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to transport, import, bring, ship, or cause to be transported, imported, brought, or shipped into the State of Nebraska for the personal use of the possessor, his or her family, or guests a quantity of alcoholic liquor in excess of nine liters in any one calendar month.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a person importing alcoholic liquor from a holder of a retail direct sales shipping license or its equivalent, which alcoholic liquor is for personal use or for use by such person’s family or guests, if the total amount imported by such person in any one calendar year does not exceed one hundred eight liters.

(3) Alcoholic liquor transported, imported, brought, or shipped into the State of Nebraska in violation of this section shall be seized by the commission and disposed of in the manner provided for contraband. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor.

Sec. 31. Section 53-1,100, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

53-1,100 (1) Any person who
(a) manufactures, imports alcoholic liquor for distribution as a wholesaler, or distributes or sells alcoholic liquor at any place within the state without having first obtained a valid license to do so under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act,
(b) who manufactures alcoholic liquor other than spirits within the state without having first obtained a valid license to do so under the act,
(c) who makes any false statement or otherwise violates any of the provisions of the act in obtaining any license under the act,
(d) who, having obtained a license under the act, violates any of the provisions of the act with respect to the manufacture, possession, distribution, or sale of alcoholic liquor or with respect to the maintenance of the licensed premises,
(e) who violates any other provision of the act for which a penalty is not otherwise provided, shall for a first offense be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor and for a second or subsequent offense shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor.

(2) Any person who manufactures spirits at any place within the state without having first obtained a valid license to do so under the act shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class IV felony for a second or subsequent offense.

(3) Each day any person engages in business as a manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer in violation of the act shall constitute a separate offense.

(4) In any prosecution in which a person is charged with an offense arising out of the failure to obtain a valid license as provided in subdivision (1)(a) or (b) or subsection (2) of this section, evidence of the failure of the accused to produce such license upon demand shall constitute prima facie proof that a license has not been issued by the commission to such person.

Sec. 32. If any section in this act or any part of any section is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.


Sec. 34. The following section is outright repealed: Section 28-1479, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Sec. 35. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.