

Article 9
Home Rule Petition for Additional Alcoholic Beverage Licenses

To determine whether the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to authorize the Town to issue eight (8) additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on premises as follows:

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF BEDFORD TO GRANT
ADDITIONAL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative in General Court assembled,
and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the licensing authority of the Town of Bedford may grant eight (8) licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises under Section 12 of said Chapter 138. The licenses shall be subject to all of said Chapter 138, except Section 17.

SECTION 2. Licenses issued pursuant to this Act shall be non-transferrable to any other locations, persons, corporations, organizations, or entities, except that licenses issued pursuant to this Act shall be transferable by any person, corporation, organization, or entity to any other person, corporation, organization, or entity, solely for use within the permitted location. Any transfer in violation of this Act shall render said license null and void.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Sections 12 and 77 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the licensing authority of the Town of Bedford may restrict the licenses issued pursuant to this Act to holders of common victualler licenses.

SECTION 4. The licenses granted under this Act, if revoked or no longer in use, shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights and privileges pertaining thereto, to the licensing authority and may be granted by the licensing authority of the Town of Bedford to new applicants that are persons, corporations, organizations, or entities located in the permitted location, solely for use within the same permitted location.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

and to determine whether the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Selectmen are authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article proposes to authorize the Selectmen to file special legislation with the Massachusetts State Legislature for the purpose of allowing the Selectmen to issue eight (8) additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages in restaurants. Massachusetts law establishes a quota for the number of such licenses that the Selectmen can issue based the Town's population. At the current 2010 US Census population of 13,765 the Bedford Selectmen are permitted to issue a maximum of fourteen (14) all alcohol

on-premise licenses. With the maximum number of licenses already issued, the Selectmen seek special legislation to allow issuance of up to eight (8) additional licenses. The daytime population of Bedford is approximately twice the residential population because of the number of employees working at the business and institutional organizations located in Bedford. Having the ability to issue additional licenses would foster the growth of the restaurant industry as well as support the general economy in Bedford.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Selectmen: Recommendation to be given at Annual Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation to be given at Annual Town Meeting