

# SENATE, No. 701

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator HOLLY T. SCHEPISI**

**District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Reduces alcoholic beverage tax rate on cider and low-percentage alcohol by volume liquors.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/3/2022)**

S701 BEACH, SCHEPISI

2

1 AN ACT reducing the alcoholic beverage tax rate on cider and low-  
2 percentage alcohol by volume liquors, amending R.S.54:43-1.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. R.S.54:43-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 54:43-1. Tax rates. There are hereby levied and imposed upon  
9 any sale of alcoholic beverages made within this State or upon any  
10 delivery of alcoholic beverages made within or into this State the  
11 following excise taxes:

12 a. Beer  --From July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1992, at the rate  
13 of \$0.10 a gallon or fraction thereof and on or after July 1, 1992, at  
14 the rate of  ; \$0.12 a gallon or fraction thereof.

15 b. Liquors  --From July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1992, at the  
16 rate of \$4.20 a gallon, on or after July 1, 1992 through July 31,  
17 2009, at the rate of \$4.40 a gallon and on or after August 1, 2009, at  
18 the rate of  ; \$5.50 a gallon , except that liquors containing less  
19 than 9.9 percent of alcohol by volume shall be taxed at \$0.12 a  
20 gallon.

21 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1972, c.53.)

22 d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1972, c.53.)

23 e. Wines, vermouth and sparkling wines  --From July 1, 1990  
24 through June 30, 1992, at the rate of \$0.50 a gallon, on or after July  
25 1, 1992 through July 31, 2009, at the rate of \$0.70 a gallon; and on  
26 or after August 1, 2009, at the rate of  ; \$0.875 a gallon, provided  
27 however, that cider containing at least three and two-tenths per  
28 centum (3 2/10 %) of alcohol by volume but not more than 7 per  
29 centum (7%) of alcohol by volume shall be taxed at the rate of  
30  \$0.12 a gallon.

31 (cf: P.L.2009, c.71, s.1)

32

33 2. This act shall take effect the first day of the fourth month  
34 following enactment.

35

36

37

STATEMENT

38

39 This bill reduces the alcoholic beverage tax rate on cider and low-  
40 percentage alcohol by volume (ABV) liquors so that they match the  
41 tax rate for beer. Under current law governing the excise tax on  
42 alcoholic beverages, cider is taxed at \$0.15 a gallon and beer is taxed  
43 at \$0.12 a gallon. This bill reduces the rate on cider to \$0.12 a gallon  
44 to match the tax rate for beer.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[ thus ]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

**S701 BEACH, SCHEPISI**

3

1       Low-percentage ABV liquors, such as canned cocktails, are  
2       currently taxed at the rate for liquor, which is \$5.50 a gallon. Under  
3       the bill, liquors with lower than 9.9 percent ABV are to be taxed at  
4       \$0.12 a gallon to match the tax rate for beer.