

Senate Bill 86

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Ginn of the 47th, Summers of the 13th, Albers of the 56th, Harrell of the 40th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alcoholic beverages,  
2 so as to authorize retail dealers to offer discounts to consumers through premiums, coupons,  
3 or rebates on alcoholic beverages purchased for consumption off the premises; to provide for  
4 a definition; to provide certain conditions and requirements for the offering of such  
5 discounts; to increase the number of tasting events a retail package liquor store may conduct;  
6 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
7 for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alcoholic beverages, is  
11 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "3-3-12.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'discount' means a lower price offered through  
14 the use of a premium, coupon, or rebate.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any retail dealer may offer a discount on  
16 alcoholic beverages sold for consumption off of the premises, provided that:

- 17 (1) Such discount is offered at all licensed premises owned or operated by the same retail  
 18 dealer;
- 19 (2) Such discount is not specific to any particular brand of alcoholic beverages;
- 20 (3) All costs related to any such discount, including, but not limited to, printing,  
 21 advertisement, redemption services, and the actual cost of the discount itself, are borne  
 22 solely by the retail dealer;
- 23 (4) No manufacturer or wholesaler, or anyone acting on behalf of a manufacturer or  
 24 wholesaler, has made any arrangement of any kind or character with the retail dealer in  
 25 connection with the offering, use, or redemption of any discount; and
- 26 (5) The discount does not result in any alcoholic beverages being sold at a price less than  
 27 the cost which such retail dealer paid for such alcoholic beverages. As used in this  
 28 paragraph, the term 'cost' means and includes the wholesale price plus the local excise tax  
 29 imposed, as reflected in invoices which the commissioner may require to be maintained  
 30 on the site of such retail dealer's place of business."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 3-15-2, relating to terms and  
 33 conditions for limited tasting events, as follows:

34 "3-15-2.

35 Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, in all counties and municipalities in which  
 36 the sale of alcoholic beverages is lawful, retail package liquor stores shall be authorized to  
 37 conduct up to ~~52~~ 104 tasting events per calendar year, subject to the following terms and  
 38 conditions:

- 39 (1) A tasting event shall only take place on the licensed premises and only at times at  
 40 which such alcoholic beverages may be lawfully sold on such licensed premises;
- 41 (2) Only one tasting event per day may be held on the licensed premises and such tasting  
 42 event shall not exceed four hours;

- 43 (3) Only one type of alcoholic beverage may be served at a tasting event, either malt  
44 beverages, wine, or distilled spirits; provided, however, that more than one brand of such  
45 type of alcoholic beverage may be offered so long as not more than four packages are  
46 open at any one time;
- 47 (4) If the tasting event is for malt beverages, a consumer shall not be served more than  
48 eight ounces of malt beverages during such tasting event. If the tasting event is for wine,  
49 a consumer shall not be served more than five ounces of wine during such tasting event.  
50 If the tasting event is for distilled spirits, a consumer shall not be served more than one  
51 and one-half ounces of distilled spirits during such tasting event;
- 52 (5) Only alcoholic beverages that the licensee is licensed to sell on the licensed premises  
53 may be offered as part of a tasting event, and such alcoholic beverages shall be part of the  
54 licensee's inventory;
- 55 (6) Only food that is lawful to sell on the licensed premises, under this title or under any  
56 rules or regulations of the commissioner, may be served as part of a tasting event. Such  
57 food shall be offered at no cost to the consumer;
- 58 (7) Any operator or employee of the licensee may refuse to provide any brand, type, or  
59 quantity of alcoholic beverage to any consumer;
- 60 (8) The licensee shall notify the governing authority of the county or municipality in  
61 which the licensed premises is located prior to holding a tasting event;
- 62 (9) Any broken package containing alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises that is  
63 not licensed for retail sales for consumption on the premises shall be kept locked in a  
64 secure room or cabinet by the operator of the licensed premises except when in use  
65 during a tasting event;
- 66 (10) Representatives and salespersons of manufacturers or wholesalers may attend a  
67 tasting event; provided, however, that such representatives and salespersons shall not host  
68 the tasting event, pour any alcoholic beverage, or provide anything of value to any  
69 consumer or to the licensee or an employee of a licensee; and

70 (11) Any other terms, conditions, and limitations as may be required or imposed by the  
71 governing authority of the county or municipality in which the licensed premises is  
72 located."

73 **SECTION 3.**

74 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
75 without such approval.

76 **SECTION 4.**

77 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.