

**SJR95 INTRODUCED**



1 NXE688-1  
2 By Senator Singleton  
3 RFD:  
4 First Read: 31-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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SJR\_\_\_ CREATING THE MIXED SPIRIT BEVERAGE TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, the past decade has witnessed an increase in the manufacture of beverages low in alcohol content brewed mainly from cane sugar or malted rice and typically mixed in flavored soda water or flavored seltzer water; and

WHEREAS, these "mixed spirit beverages," available from several manufacturers, have become popular with consumers, due in part to a perception that they are a low calorie alternative to beer, wine, or liquor; and

WHEREAS, the existing alcoholic beverage control laws in the State of Alabama make no provision for this beverage category, resulting in the absence of legal guidelines for suppliers, wholesalers, and retailers, and the loss of revenue to the state and its localities; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Mixed Spirit Beverage Task Force is established for the purpose of recommending legislation that would provide for the distribution, sale, and taxation of mixed spirit beverages.

(a) The membership of the task force shall consist of all of the following:

- (1) The Lieutenant Governor, or his or her designee.
- (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or his or her designee.



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29           (3) The Majority Leader of the Senate, or his or her  
30     designee.

31           (4) The Minority Leader of the Senate, or his or her  
32     designee.

33           (5) The Chair of the Senate Tourism Committee, or his  
34     or her designee.

35           (6) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or  
36     his or her designee.

37           (7) The Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of  
38     Representatives, or his or her designee.

39           (8) The Majority Leader of the House of  
40     Representatives, or his or her designee.

41           (9) The Minority Leader of the House of  
42     Representatives, or his or her designee.

43           (10) The Chair of the House of Representatives  
44     Economic Development and Tourism Committee, or his or her  
45     designee.

46           (b)(1) Any individual appointed to serve on the task  
47     force by designation shall be a sitting member of the same  
48     house as the designating member of the Legislature provided  
49     in subsection (a).

50           (2) The membership of the task force shall be  
51     inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban,  
52     rural, and economic diversity of the state.

53           (3) No later than 60 days after enactment of this  
54     resolution, the Governor shall call the first meeting of the  
55     task force, at which the members shall elect a chair from  
56     among the membership.



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57 (4) The members of the task force shall be entitled  
58 to their legislative compensation, per diem, and travel  
59 expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the task  
60 force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama  
61 of 2022.

62 (c) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
63 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State  
64 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on  
65 the task force, and a copy of all reports and written  
66 recommendations produced throughout the duration of the task  
67 force.

68 (d) (1) The task force shall meet as necessary to  
69 conduct its business.

70 (2) A quorum for a meeting shall be five members.

71 (3) The task force may meet by electronic means.

72 (e) The task force shall study mixed spirit beverages  
73 and the current practices surrounding their distribution and  
74 sale in the State of Alabama to wholesalers, retailers, and  
75 the public in order to recommend legislation for inclusion  
76 in the state's current alcoholic beverage control laws and  
77 rules, with particular attention to the following  
78 provisions:

79 (1) A legal definition of mixed spirit beverages.

80 (2) The distribution of mixed spirit beverages in  
81 relation to the three-tier system of manufacturer or  
82 supplier, distributor or wholesaler, and retailer.



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83           (3) The distribution and sale of mixed spirit  
84 beverages in relation to the Alcoholic Beverage Control  
85 Board and its stores.

86           (4) The licensing of mixed spirit beverage retailers.

87           (5) The levy of the excise tax on mixed spirit  
88 beverages as to the rate and collection.

89           (f) The task force shall submit its recommendations  
90 on mixed spirit beverage legislation to the Governor and the  
91 Legislature no later than the fifth day of the 2024 Regular  
92 Session of the Legislature, at which time the task force  
93 shall terminate.

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