

A. FEDERAL / NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL

Small Brewer Federal Excise Tax Legislation Update. [H.R. 1236](#), the Small Brewer Reinvestment and Expanding Workforce Act (Small BREW Act) introduced by Representatives Jim Gerlach (PA-6) and Richard E. Neal (MA-2), now has [121 co-sponsors](#). [S.534](#), companion legislation in the Senate introduced by Senators John Kerry (MA-D) and Mike Crapo (ID-R), has [35 co-sponsors](#).

H.R. 1236 and S. 534 mirror the provisions contained in last session's H.R. 4278 and S. 3339 which gained the support of 132 U.S. Representatives and 28 Senators respectively. Specifically, the bills would reduce the small brewer rate on the first 60,000 barrels by 50 percent (from \$7.00 to \$3.50/barrel) and institute a new rate \$16.00 per barrel on beer production above 60,000 barrels up to 2 million barrels. Breweries with an annual production of 6 million barrels or less would qualify for these tax rates.

B. THE STATES

Trade Practice & Other:

District of Columbia

The DC Council has passed [Bill 118](#), the Brewery Manufacturer's Tasting Permit Amendment Act of 2011, which allows a manufacturer's license holder to conduct tastings of alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises.

Michigan

Passing the Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform after previously passing the full House, [H.B. 4061](#) would allow homebrewers to serve their home brewed beer at meetings held on licensed brewery premises.

Virginia

The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has initiated a [comprehensive review](#) of its regulations with the participation of alcohol beverage industry representatives. The [Virginia Craft Brewers Guild](#) is actively participating in the review process.