



## Alabama Law Institute

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Alabama Legislature  
FROM: Representative Alan Boothe, Chair  
SUBJECT: Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Reform Task Force Report  
DATE: February 2, 2015

This memorandum serves as the report for the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Reform Task Force (Task Force).

#### **I. Task Force Creation**

The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Reform Task Force (Task Force) was created by H.R. 368. As stated in the Resolution,

The goal of the task force is to examine the laws and regulations of this state and other states related to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages, and the role of this state in the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages, and to determine if more cost-effective measures and reforms can be reasonably implemented by the Alabama Legislature to reduce the cost and burden of Alabama alcoholic beverage laws and regulations on the taxpayers of the state, while giving due consideration to the stabilization and support of the free enterprises currently existing and operating in the state and balancing the interests of the public morals and safety.<sup>1</sup>

Representative Alan Boothe was selected to be the Chair of the Task Force. Task Force members include Representative Steve Clouse, Senator Gerald Dial, Representative Merika Coleman-Evans, Representative David Faulkner, Representative Craig Ford, Representative Reed Ingram, Senator Tim Melson, Senator Arthur Orr, Representative Chris Pringle, Representative John Rogers, Senator Quinton Ross, Representative Connie Rowe, and William Thigpen, Assistant Administrator, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

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<sup>1</sup> H.R. 368(c) (Ala. 2015).

## **II. Task Force Meetings**

The Task Force held its first meeting on June 23, 2015. The Task Force heard testimony from administrators and staff of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC), describing the history, organization, and operations of ABC. The Task Force also toured the ABC Warehouse and an ABC Retail Liquor Store in Montgomery.

The Task Force held another meeting on July 29, 2015. The Task Force heard testimony from Jason Underwood, representing the Sazerac Company, the nation's largest manufacturer of distilled spirits. The focus of the testimony was the impact of privatizing state liquor stores on alcohol consumption and state revenues. The Task Force heard further testimony from Pamela Erickson of Public Action Management, PLC. Her testimony focused on the effects of privatizing state liquor stores in Washington State. The Task Force also heard a presentation from Nicholas Ketter, Director of Products, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

The Task Force held its final meeting on January 12, 2015. The Task Force heard testimony from Mack Otts of Autry Greer & Sons, representing the Alabama Grocers Association. He spoke in favor of privatizing Alabama's state liquor stores.

The Task Force collected extensive information and submissions from interested persons. This information is compiled in the attached appendix.

## **III. Task Force Materials**

The Task Force collected numerous submissions from interested parties. All submissions can be reviewed on the Commission's website at <http://ali.state.al.us/abctf.html>.