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Changes to Kansas liquor laws taking effect July 1

TOPEKA – Starting July 1, licensed retail stores in Kansas will be able to offer taste tests of their wares in the shop, and bars and restaurants will be able to offer happy hour drink specials.

Suppliers will also be able to participate in tasting events hosted by a store. While there are no limits on the size or number of samples one person may receive, the samples must be consumed in the store.

Manufacturers will also be able to serve free samples of liquor on their premise if the manufacturer's premise is located in a county where the sales of liquor or individual drinks are permitted.

Currently, bars and restaurants can offer all day drink specials but cannot have “happy hours” where drinks are discounted between specific times.

With the new law, bars and restaurants will also be able to offer discounted drink prices at any time or to specific groups – such as “ladies night” drink specials.