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ADVOCATING RESPONSIBILITY.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

December 23, 2009

During this holiday season, we all will be focused on family, health and happiness. Unfortunately, given the harsh economic realities the State of Maine is facing, we also will be thinking about the impact of the recession on our industry.

In January, the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature will convene to continue its work on the budget and other issues. At the heart of the matter is the state's continuing decline in revenues; income taxes, sales taxes and other funding sources. Information about the state's budget and the forecast committee can be found below.

About the Forecasting Committee

(http://maine.gov/legis/ofpr/revenue_forecasting_committee)

To begin the process, on Friday, December 18, Governor Baldacci announced his plans for closing a \$438 million budget gap. More information on the components of the Governor's proposed budget is included below.

More about the budget

(<http://www.maine.gov/budget/budgetinfo/2010supplemental.htm>)

“My plan does not increase taxes, fees or fines. I do not believe that working families and businesses can afford a greater burden.” - Governor Baldacci

More from Governor Baldacci

(<http://maine.gov/governor/baldacci/index.shtml>)

We applaud Governor Baldacci for his leadership during these challenging times and pledge to work with the members of the 124th Maine Legislature as they continue to tackle the supplemental budget and other policy issues.

As difficult as the process may be, we must stay focused and remain positive. Working together we can find a solution. Below is the list of the initial list of legislation we'll be tracking as the Second Session of the 124th Legislature begins.

- An Act to Streamline Wine Registration Requirements- Rep. Seth Berry
- An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Taste-testing of Alcoholic Beverages – Rep. Stacey Fitts
- An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Taste-testing of Alcoholic Beverages –Rep. David Webster
- An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Instant Redeemable Coupons Included with a Spirits Product – Rep. Stacey Fitts
- An Act Regarding the Sale of Malt Liquor from a Mobile Service Bar on a Golf Course – Sen. Joseph Perry
- Resolve, to Reclaim Past Unredeemed Beverage Container Deposits – Rep. John Martin
- An Act to Establish a Local Option Sales Tax – Rep. Patsy Crockett

As the process evolves and developments occur, visit our web site www.mainebeerandwine.com for more legislative updates. We also encourage you to sign up for our MBWDA eNewsletter “*The Toast*”.



***Happy Holidays –
Be Safe and Responsible –
Designate a Driver.***

— Cheryl Timberlake
Executive Vice President