#### DRAFT

### FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

# **Alcohol Direct-Shipping Compliance Act**

**Uniform Law Commission** 

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# **Alcohol Direct-Shipping Compliance Act**

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# **Alcohol Direct-Shipping Compliance Act**

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# **Alcohol Direct-Shipping Compliance Act**

# **Prefatory Note**

Alcoholic beverages enjoy a unique constitutional status, and states have broad power to regulate the alcohol trade. Section 2 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment empowers states to regulate the "transportation or importation" into the state of intoxicating liquor "for delivery or use therein." The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment grants the states "virtually complete control over whether to permit importation or sale of liquor and how to structure the liquor distribution system." *Granholm v. Heald*, 544 U.S. 460, 488-89 (2005) (quoting *California Retail Liquor Dealers Ass'n v. Midcal Aluminum, Inc.*, 445 U.S. 97, 110 (1980)).

In preparing this act, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (Conference) recognizes that the policy-makers in each state are best suited to determine whether alcoholic beverages should be sold in the state and, if so, under what circumstances or with what restrictions the distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages should occur. The Conference is a state-supported organization comprised of representatives from each state who are appointed by state governments. The Conference was founded on principles of federalism and state autonomy.

At the time this act was prepared, approximately 46 states had chosen to allow some form of direct-to-consumer (DTC) wine shipping by wineries. Some of these states also allow DTC shipping by retailers and by producers of beer and distilled spirits. Most of these states require licensing of DTC shippers, but approximately four do not. The purpose of this act is not to require states to allow DTC shipping of alcoholic beverages or to establish requirements or standards for DTC shipments, but rather to assist states with better mechanisms to stop the unlawful DTC shipments that state policy-makers have chosen not to allow. Unauthorized DTC shipments are often interstate shipments, and the act promotes uniformity and cooperation among states seeking more effective cross-border enforcement of their existing DTC shipping laws.

This act enhances each state's capability to detect and stop unlawful DTC shipments of alcoholic beverages to the state's residents. The act incorporates the state's existing law as to the industry participants and types of alcoholic beverages for which DTC shipping is allowed, and does *not* create any new or additional authorization to ship alcoholic beverages directly to a consumer. The act provides state regulators with new tools to distinguish between DTC shipments originating from shippers licensed under the state's existing law and DTC shipments that do not, and aids state regulators in enforcing their existing laws governing DTC shipments of any type of alcoholic beverage.

1	Alcohol Direct-Shipping Compliance Act
2	Section 1. Title
3	This [act] may be cited as the Alcohol Direct-Shipping Compliance Act.
4	Section 2. Definitions
5	In this [act]:
6	(1) "Alcoholic beverages" has the meaning in [cite to state's definition of
7	alcoholic beverages].
8	(2) "Carrier" means a person that:
9	(A) holds itself out to the general public as engaged in the business of
10	transporting goods for a fee; and
11	(B) is engaged in the business of transporting and delivering alcoholic
12	beverages in this state directly to consumers.
13	(3) ["Commission"] means [this state's alcoholic beverage commission].
14	(4) "Consignor" means a person that provides to a carrier alcoholic beverages for
15	shipment.
16	(5) "Consumer" means an individual who orders or for whom is ordered covered
17	alcoholic beverages to be shipped to the individual in this state. The term does not include an
18	individual who:
19	(A) is, or is acting on behalf of, a person holding an alcoholic- beverage
20	[license] [permit] under which the person is authorized to receive shipments of alcoholic
21	beverages for resale or production purposes; or
22	(B) orders or for whom is ordered covered alcoholic beverages sold by a
23	retailer for delivery not later than 24 hours after the order and not more than 50 miles from the

1	retailer's licensed premises.
2	(6) "Covered alcoholic beverages" means [the types of alcoholic beverages for
3	which the state authorizes direct-to-consumer shipments].
4	(7) "Direct-shipper license" means a [license] [permit] issued by the
5	[commission] authorizing the sale and shipment of covered alcoholic beverages directly to a
6	consumer.
7	(8) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic,
8	wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.
9	(9) "Licensed direct shipper" means a person that holds a direct-shipper license.
10	(10) "Logistics shipper" means a person that acts on behalf of a licensed direct
11	shipper to ship covered alcoholic beverages to a consumer and arranges for transport by carrier
12	of covered alcoholic beverages to the consumer.
13	(11) "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, or other
14	legal entity. The term does not include a public corporation or government or governmental
15	subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.
16	(12) "Record" means information:
17	(A) inscribed on a tangible medium; or
18	(B) stored in an electronic or other medium and retrievable in perceivable
19	form.
20	(13) "Registered logistics shipper" means a logistics shipper registered under
21	Section 3.
22	(14) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto
23	Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession subject to the

1 jurisdiction of the United States.

(15) "Wine" has the meaning in [cite to state's definition of wine].

**Legislative Note:** A state should replace the term "commission" and bracketed agency description in paragraph (3) with the agency reference in the state.

A state should in paragraph (6) identify the types of alcoholic beverages that may be shipped directly to consumers under applicable state law, for example, wine only or some combination of wine, spirits, or malt beverages. Depending on the types of alcoholic beverages that may be shipped, the state may also need to add to this section the state's definitions of distilled spirits and fermented malt beverages.

Bracketed language in paragraphs (5) and (7) allows a state to adjust these paragraphs to reflect whether the authorization is in the form of a license or permit. If appropriate, the state may also insert another form authorization, such as registration. The state may prefer to substitute cross references to state law authorizing direct shipping to a consumer.

#### Comment

States take a variety of approaches to direct-to-consumer shipping. Approximately 46 states authorize wineries to ship wine directly to consumers. About 15 states allow retailers to ship directly to consumers. Some states allow producers and retailers to ship any type of alcoholic beverage (wine, beer, or distilled spirits) directly to consumers. All of these states except approximately four require licensing to ship directly to the state's consumers. The enacting state's approach to enforcement will depend in part on what types of shipments are considered lawful, so the act is drafted to recognize this variation in both the types of direct shipping licenses states issue and the types of alcoholic beverages that may be lawfully shipped to consumers. The act's definition of "covered alcoholic beverages" identifies the types of alcoholic beverages for which the state authorizes direct-to-consumer shipments. The act's definitions of "licensed direct shipper" and "direct-shipper license" are also intended to fit within the enacting state's existing framework. The term "person" in the definition of "licensed direct shipper" might be limited to a winery in some states, or also include a retailer or other producers in other states, depending on whether the state authorizes only direct-to-consumer shipping of wine by wineries or authorizes other direct-to-consumer shipping as well.

The term "consumer" is used repeatedly throughout the act. It is worth emphasizing that a consumer is an individual located in the state of enactment. The consumer is the consignee of the shipment, the addressee or intended recipient of the package containing alcoholic beverages. The consumer will usually be the individual who purchases the product and has it shipped to him or her. However, if the product is ordered by someone as a gift for another, the consumer will be the intended recipient of the gift rather than the purchaser. The act recognizes that, as with other packages delivered by a carrier, many states allow the package containing wine or alcoholic beverages to be received and signed for by another of-age person, such as a spouse at the consumer's residence or a receptionist at the consumer's place of business. Under the act, the consumer is the addressee or *intended* recipient of the package even if the *actual* recipient of the

package is a third-party who signs the carrier's delivery slip on behalf of the consumer. The act does not preclude a consumer from ordering alcoholic beverages (if the alcoholic beverages are of a type authorized for direct-to-consumer shipping) for the consumer's use at an event like a reception, if doing so complies with the enacting state's existing law.

Most states restrict direct-to-consumer shipping to shipments for the recipient's personal use, and the act clarifies that a consumer does not include, for example, an individual who receives the shipment as an employee of a retailer or rectifier or otherwise as part of the three-tier system. The term "consumer" is also defined to exclude individuals who order alcoholic beverages for local delivery, as opposed to shipment. Many states have now authorized retailers to make online sales followed by local delivery, both directly and through third-party apps and services, and the act is not intended to apply to these transactions that are made through the three-tier system and typically involve contemporaneous purchase and delivery.

The term "logistics shipper" means, in effect, the consignor or sender of a shipment if the shipment is arranged with the carrier by a third-party and not by the seller (the "licensed shipper"). Usually the logistics shipper will be a fulfillment provider that warehouses, packs, and ships the product for the licensed shipper, but providing storage and packaging services is not a requirement for being considered a logistics shipper subject to the provisions of the act.

 Regarding the term "carrier," the definition is in part similar to the definition of "common carrier" under 15 U.S.C. Section 375 relating to cigarette taxes and the definition under South Dakota statute section 35-12B-1. The definition of "carrier" is intended to be much narrower than "common carrier," focusing only on common carriers that deliver direct-to-consumer shipments of alcoholic beverages to individuals. The definition excludes motor carriers, water carriers, and railroads that transport alcoholic beverages into and within the state as part of the three-tier system (that is, to other businesses in the alcoholic beverage industry). The act allows, but does not require, the carrier to have the consignor identify whether the package containing alcohol is being sent to a licensee (that is, distributed through the three-tier system) or to a consumer. Only consumer shipments must be reported under Section 5 of the act. A carrier engaged in the business of transporting and delivering to consumers only wine and no other alcoholic beverages meets the standard under paragraph (2) (B) because wine is an alcoholic beverage.

Regarding the term "Commission," the name of the department or agency responsible for administering the state's alcoholic beverage laws varies from state to state. Common agency names include the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Department of Revenue, Liquor Control Commission, and others. The act uses the term "Commission" as the default because it is the most common agency name.

State definitions of wine can vary. The act relies on the state's existing definitions of wine and alcoholic beverages. Depending on optional language included in the act, adding the state's definitions of distilled spirits and fermented malt beverages might also be warranted.

#### Section 3. Registration of Logistics Shipper

1	(a) A logistics shipper shall register with the [commission] before shipping covered
2	alcoholic beverages into or within this state.
3	(b) Subject to subsection (c), an application for registration as a logistics shipper must be
4	in the form prescribed by the [commission] and include:
5	(1) each address from which the logistics shipper will ship covered alcoholic
6	beverages to a consumer;
7	(2) the name, address, and direct-shipper-license number of each licensed direct
8	shipper on whose behalf the logistics shipper will ship covered alcoholic beverages to a
9	consumer; and
10	(3) other information the [commission] determines necessary to implement this
11	[act].
12	(c) To register under this section, a logistics shipper must agree to:
13	(1) appoint and maintain under Section 6(d) an agent for service of process;
14	(2) provide access under Section 6(b) to its records;
15	(3) allow the [commission] to conduct an audit under Section 6(b) of its records
16	and an inspection under Section 6(c) of its premises; and
17	(4) submit to the jurisdiction of the [commission], the courts, and other
18	enforcement authority of this state with respect to enforcement of this [act] and other law of this
19	state regulating the shipment of alcoholic beverages directly to an individual in this state.
20	(d) A logistics shipper registered under this section shall provide [monthly] to the
21	[commission], in the form prescribed by the [commission], an updated list of all licensed direct
22	shippers on whose behalf the logistics shipper ships covered alcoholic beverages to consumers.
23	The list must include the name, business address, and direct-shipper-license number of each

1	ncensed direct snipper, with the name stated if possible as it appears on the direct-snipper
2	license.
3	(e) A logistics shipper may ship covered alcoholic beverages to a consumer only if:
4	(1) the registration of the logistics shipper is not suspended, revoked, or canceled
5	[under subsection (f) or (g)];
6	(2) the covered alcoholic beverages were supplied to the logistics shipper by a
7	licensed direct shipper;
8	(3) the package containing the covered alcoholic beverages clearly indicates:
9	(A) on the shipping label, the name and applicable address of the logistics
10	shipper, as they appear in the registration under this section, as consignor and the name and address of the
11	consumer as intended recipient;
12	(B) on the package or shipping label, the name and direct-shipper license
13	number of the licensed direct shipper that supplied to the logistics shipper the covered alcoholic
14	beverages contained in the package; and
15	(4) the shipment is authorized under other law of this state.
16	[(f) The [commission], after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing, may
17	suspend, revoke, or impose conditions on the registration of a logistics shipper[ for good cause,
18	including for any violation specified in Section 9(a)(1)].]
19	[(g) A registered logistics shipper may cancel its registration, in the manner prescribed by
20	the [commission], unless an enforcement proceeding is pending against the logistics shipper.
21	Cancellation of the registration does not affect the [commission's] jurisdiction with respect to
22	activity that occurred before the cancellation. If an enforcement proceeding is pending against a
23	registered logistics shipper, the logistics shipper may cancel its registration only with the consent

1 of the [commission].]

- 2 (h) Use by a licensed direct shipper of the services of a registered logistics shipper does
- 3 not relieve the direct shipper of a requirement imposed on it under [cite to applicable law of the
- 4 state].
- **Legislative Note:** This section requires a registered logistics shipper to identify to the
- 6 commission each licensed direct shipper on whose behalf it makes shipments. A state may choose
- 7 to amend its law to require each licensed direct shipper to also notify the commission of all
- 8 logistics shippers it has engaged to make shipments on its behalf. The state may need to clarify in
- 9 its law that a licensed direct shipper may engage the services of a registered logistics shipper to
- 10 make a shipment to a consumer.

In subsection (d), "monthly" is bracketed because the state may prefer an alternative period, such as quarterly or the logistics shipper's reporting period under Section 5.

Subsections (f) and (g) are bracketed because the topic of administrative actions may fit better under other state law addressing similar matters.

Brackets around the clause starting "for good cause" in subsection (f) allow the state to adopt a different standard, including listing specific conduct or a violation that may result in suspension of, revocation of, or conditions on the registration.

Brackets in subsection (h) allow the state to reference provisions of law that impose restrictions on direct-to-consumer shipments, such as the quantity of a covered alcoholic beverage that may be shipped to a consumer.

**Comment** 

A significant amount of direct-to-consumer shipping of alcoholic beverages is accomplished by means of an intermediary, usually referred to as a logistics shipper or fulfillment provider. Few states require licensing or registration of such intermediaries, but the use of such an intermediary makes it difficult for state regulators to identify the originator of the alcoholic beverage shipment. This act provides a mechanism under which state regulators can better identify what alcoholic beverages are being shipped into the state and by whom. The act does not establish standards or requirements for these shipments. The enacting state's existing law will govern such matters as licensing requirements for direct shippers authorized to ship to consumers in the state, which might be wineries only or might include retailers and other producers. The enacting state's existing law also governs what types of alcoholic beverages may be shipped, i.e., whether the state authorizes direct-to-consumer shipments of wine only or also allows direct-to-consumer shipments of other alcoholic beverages, and what restrictions apply to these shipments, such as quantity limits, package marking, and age verification. The enacting state's law will require compliance by the licensed direct shipper, whether that shipment is accomplished directly or with help from a logistics shipper. This act assists state regulators in

establishing the identity of both the seller of alcoholic beverages and the logistics shipper acting on its behalf.

A central aspect of this act is ensuring that the enacting state can establish jurisdiction over out-of-state actors. Subsection (c) is included in the act, in addition to Section 6, to create stronger support for the enacting state's authority to assert jurisdiction. Subsection (c) requires the actor to agree to the state's jurisdiction, rather than relying only on a statutory assertion of jurisdiction. It is contemplated that the agreement will take the form of a check-box on the registration application.

Subsection (f) allows the enacting state to suspend or revoke a logistics shipper's registration for good cause, including violations of the act. This standard is bracketed as optional because the state may wish to more specifically identify the conduct that may result in suspension or revocation of the registration. The act also allows the state, in Section 10, to adopt rules to define, or establish guidelines for determining, "good cause. Subsection (f) also allows the state to opt for a punishment less severe than suspension or revocation by imposing a condition on the registration, such as requiring additional employee training. Subsections (f) and (g) are also bracketed in their entirety because the enacting state may have existing standards or procedures that are well-suited to the administrative considerations underlying these provisions.

Subsection (d) requires a registered logistics shipper to provide the state with a list of licensed direct shippers on whose behalf shipments are made. Under Section 2, "licensed direct shipper" is a defined term that includes only a person holding a direct-shipper license issued by the enacting state. In other words, this list of direct shippers is limited to the direct shippers licensed by the enacting state.

The act does not specifically require a contract between a logistics shipper and the licensed direct shipper on whose behalf it arranges shipments, but it is likely there will be such a contract defining the parties' respective responsibilities and liabilities. The act also does not expressly refer to the logistics shipper as the "agent" of the licensed direct shipper, although the parties' contract might.

#### Section 4. Carrier Delivery from Licensed or Registered Shipper

- (a) Subject to subsection (b), a carrier may not deliver to a consumer a package known by the carrier to contain alcoholic beverages unless:
- (1) the consignor is a licensed direct shipper and the carrier has verified its directshipper license for the current license period; or
- 38 (2) the consignor is a registered logistics shipper and the carrier has verified its registration under Section 3.

1 (b) A carrier that verifies that a direct shipper has a direct-shipper license for the current 2 license period may consider the license to be valid for the remainder of the license period unless 3 the carrier receives notice from the [commission] that the license has been [suspended, revoked, 4 or canceled]. A carrier that verifies that a logistics shipper is registered under Section 3 may 5 consider the registration to be valid unless the carrier receives notice from the [commission] that 6 the registration has been suspended, revoked, or canceled. [A carrier may consider an expired 7 direct-shipper license to be valid if the [commission] has delayed processing renewal of direct-8 shipper licenses.] 9 Legislative Note: Brackets in subsection (b) allow the state to insert the proper terminology for 10 suspension, revocation, or termination of a direct-shipper license. 11 12 *Include the final, bracketed sentence of subsection (b) if the state chooses to allow licensed* 13 activity to continue during administrative disruptions in the license renewal process, such as 14 during the COVID-19 pandemic. 15 16 Comment 17 18 This section creates requirements related to the carrier's activities in the enacting state. 19 As discussed previously, a consumer is an individual in the enacting state and both a licensed 20 direct shipper and registered logistics shipper are businesses authorized by the enacting state to 21 ship into the enacting state. The provision therefore regulates the carrier only in the enacting

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After a carrier has verified that a consignor either holds a direct-shipper license valid for the applicable license period or has a logistics shipper's registration, the carrier is not required to continually confirm that the license or registration hasn't been suspended or revoked. However, if the carrier receives notice that the license or registration has been suspended or revoked, the carrier cannot thereafter consider the license or registration as valid.

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As discussed in Section 2, approximately four states allow direct-to-consumer shipping without requiring licensing of the shipper. In these few states, Section 4 will need to be modified.

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#### **Section 5. Shipment Report**

state, where the delivery occurs.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (e), a registered logistics shipper shall file with the [commission] a [monthly] report that includes:

1	(1) the name, business address, and registration number of the logistics shipper;
2	(2) the total [gallons] [liters] of each type of covered alcoholic beverages shipped
3	to consumers by the logistics shipper during the reporting period, categorized according to the
4	state's tax classification for alcoholic beverages; and
5	(3) for each shipment of covered alcoholic beverages to a consumer during the
6	reporting period:
7	(A) the name, business address, and direct-shipper-license number of the
8	licensed direct shipper on whose behalf the logistics shipper shipped the covered alcoholic
9	beverages], with the name stated if possible as it appears on the direct-shipper license;
10	(B) the name and address of the consumer to whom the covered alcoholic
11	beverages were shipped;
12	(C) the address from which the logistics shipper originated the shipment,
13	stated identically as an address provided by the logistics shipper under Section 3(b)(1);
14	(D) the date the shipment was delivered;
15	(E) the type and quantity by volume of covered alcoholic beverages
16	shipped, with the type categorized according to the state's tax classification for alcoholic
17	beverages; and
18	(F) the name and business address of the carrier that delivered the covered
19	alcoholic beverages and the carrier's parcel tracking number for the shipment.
20	[(b) Except as provided in subsection (e), a licensed direct shipper shall file with the
21	[commission] a [monthly] report that includes:
22	(1) the name, business address, and direct-shipper-license number of the licensed
23	direct shipper;

1	(2) the total [gallons] [liters] of each type of covered alcoholic beverages shipped
2	to consumers during the reporting period, categorized according to the state's tax classification
3	for alcoholic beverages; and
4	(3) for each shipment of covered alcoholic beverages to a consumer during the
5	reporting period:
6	(A) the name and address of the consumer to whom the covered alcoholic
7	beverages were shipped;
8	(B) the date the shipment was delivered;
9	(C) the type and quantity by volume of covered alcoholic beverages
10	shipped, with the type categorized according to the state's tax classification for alcoholic
11	beverages;
12	(D) the purchase price of the covered alcoholic beverages shipped and the
13	amount and type of each tax charged in connection with the covered alcoholic beverages;
14	(E) if the covered alcoholic beverages were shipped for the licensed direct
15	shipper by a logistics shipper, the name, business address, and registration number of the
16	logistics shipper, with the name stated if possible as it appears on the logistics shipper's
17	registration; and
18	(F) if the covered alcoholic beverages were delivered by a carrier, the
19	name and business address of the carrier and the carrier's parcel tracking number for the
20	shipment.]
21	[(c) Except as provided in subsection (e), a carrier shall file with the [commission] a
22	[monthly] report that includes:
23	(1) the name and business address of the carrier;

1	(2) a list containing the name, business address, and direct-shipper-license number
2	or logistics-shipper-registration-number of each licensed direct shipper and registered logistics
3	shipper with which the carrier has an agreement to ship alcoholic beverages, with the name
4	stated if possible as it appears on the direct-shipper license or logistics-shipper registration; and
5	(3) for each shipment known by the carrier to contain alcoholic beverages that
6	was delivered to a consumer during the reporting period:
7	(A) the name and business address of the consignor of the shipment;
8	(B) the name and address of the consumer;
9	(C) the date the shipment was delivered by the carrier;
10	(D) the weight, in pounds, of the package; and
11	(E) the carrier's parcel tracking number for the shipment.]
12	(d) The [commission] shall prescribe the form and deadline for filing a report under this section.
13	The [commission] may require the report to be filed electronically. The [commission] may require a
14	person filing the report to submit additional information, including business records, to
15	substantiate information in the report.
16	(e) If no business was transacted in this state during the reporting period, a report under
17	this section must include the information under subsection $[(a)(1)][(a)(1)]$ or $[(b)(1)][(a)(1)]$ or
18	(c)(1) [(a)(1), (b)(1), or (c)(1)] and report that no business was transacted in this state during the
19	reporting period.
20	(f) Except as provided in subsection (g), a report filed under this section, and information
21	obtained from the report, is confidential and exempt from public inspection or disclosure.
22	(g) The [commission] may disclose a report under this section or information from the
23	report:

(1) as provided in Section 6(e) and (f); (2) if reasonably necessary to enforce or implement this [act] or other law of this state relating to the shipment of alcoholic beverages directly to individuals in this state; or (3) as a compilation of aggregated data, if personally identifiable information is not disclosed. **Legislative Note:** If a state requires a licensed direct shipper or carrier to file a report with the state regulator, the state may choose to amend the requirement to add the information under subsection (b) or (c) and omit that subsection. If the state authorizes direct-to-consumer shipping of distilled spirits, the state may need to clarify that quantity in subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) might need to be stated in proof gallons. The reporting period in subsections (a), (b), and (c) is bracketed as optional. The state may prefer an alternative reporting period, such as quarterly. However, the volume of carrier reports, in particular, may be such that monthly or more frequent reporting is preferable. The bracketed material in subsection (e) requires a choice based on which options are selected in subsections (b) and (c).

A state may need to amend its public records law to accomplish the confidentiality under subsections (f) and (g).

#### Comment

The act requires reporting of certain critical pieces of information that assist state regulators in determining whether shipments into the enacting state are originating from a licensed or unlicensed direct shipper. If the carrier reports the package tracking number, the direct shipper reports the package tracking number and its direct-shipper-license number, and (if applicable) the logistics shipper reports the package tracking number and the name and license number of the direct shipper on whose behalf it is shipping, the state regulator can "triangulate" information to determine whether the shipment originated from a licensed direct shipper. That is, the absence of a tracking number match with an associated direct-shipper-license number indicates a possible unlicensed shipment. This information is particularly helpful if reports are filed electronically and included in a searchable database.

The act requires a registered logistics shipper, licensed direct shipper, and carrier to report some of the same information. As discussed, cross-reporting of information is intended to assist the state regulator in analyzing shipping into the enacting state. Although the act requires a carrier to report only the weight of the package and the licensed direct shipper and logistics shipper to report the contents of the package, this information can be cross-referenced to ascertain whether the package weight is consistent with the reported contents or whether the direct shipper appears to be underreporting shipments (and tax

obligations). Reporting requirements in the act assist the state in verifying that required taxes are being reported and collected.

State regulators also have difficulty matching information among reports if the same information is reported in an inconsistent manner. For example, if a direct shipper is licensed as "Three Lakes Winery, Inc." but the registered logistics shipper reports the direct shipper as "3 Lakes," the regulator may be uncertain whether it is the same company. The act requires names to be reported, if possible, as they appear on a license or registration maintained with the enacting state. The reporting entity may obtain this information by requesting a copy of the applicable license or registration certificate or, in a state that makes such information publicly available, by checking the state's database. This requirement for precision in reporting a name is not intended to preclude the reporting entity from using a trade name (DBA) identified in a license or registration, but the DBA must be stated with accuracy on each report.

The act requires reporting by a common carrier that delivers alcoholic beverages in the enacting state to a consumer. The act does not require carriers to report alcoholic beverage shipments to licensed industry participants receiving the package through the three-tier system. Although the act does not include a requirement for carriers to identify packages designated for consumers, the carrier may choose to require consignors to declare (perhaps through a check-box) whether the consignee is a consumer or a licensee.

Many states already require licensed direct shippers and carriers to report information similar to the information required under this section. If this is the case in the enacting state, the enacting state may wish to add elements of this section to its existing requirements to ensure that state regulators are able to make full use of the reported information.

The act includes a minimal reporting requirement if there was no reportable activity during the reporting period. State regulators will therefore be able to distinguish between lack of activity and non-compliance (failure to receive a report). The act includes a presumption of monthly reporting, but the enacting state may prefer a different reporting period.

As mentioned above, reports under this section assist the state not only in identifying shipment origin but also in ensuring tax collection. Therefore, subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) require reporting according to tax classification. To use federal tax classifications as an example, aggregate volumes would be grouped in the reports as follows: still wine with an alcohol content not exceeding 16 percent; still wine with an alcohol content greater than 16 percent; sparkling wine; and cider (although there are actually more tax classifications than these).

The act requires reports to include detailed and potentially sensitive personal and proprietary information, such as a consumer's name and address and the brand and quantity of alcoholic beverages purchased. Subsection (f) requires the state regulator to maintain confidentiality of these reports and exempts them from disclosure under the state's public records law, subject to the limited exceptions under subsection (g).

#### **Section 6. State Jurisdiction; Enforcement Powers**

- (a) A registered logistics shipper[,] [and] [licensed direct shipper][,] [and carrier] [is] [are] subject to the jurisdiction of the [commission], the courts, and other enforcement authority of this state with respect to the enforcement of this [act] and other law of this state regulating the shipment of alcoholic beverages directly to individuals in this state.
- (b) The [commission] may inspect and audit the records of a registered logistics shipper[,] [and] [licensed direct shipper][,] [and carrier] for compliance with this [act] and other law of this state regulating the shipment of alcoholic beverages directly to individuals in this state. A registered logistics shipper[, licensed direct shipper, and carrier] shall allow the [commission] to inspect and audit its records and, at the [commission's] request in a record, provide complete and accurate copies to the [commission] at a location specified by the [commission] not later than [10] business days after the request.
- (c) The [commission] may inspect, during ordinary hours of operation, a location from which a registered logistics shipper [licensed direct shipper, or carrier] conducts its business to assess compliance with this [act] and other law of this state regulating the shipment of alcoholic beverages directly to individuals in this state.
- (d) A registered logistics shipper[, licensed direct shipper, and carrier] shall appoint, on a form prescribed by the [commission], and continuously maintain, an agent for service of process. The agent need not be located in this state. By appointing an agent under this subsection, the registered logistics shipper[, licensed direct shipper, or carrier] affirms that the agent consents to accept service. Service of process on the agent constitutes valid service of process on the registered logistics shipper[, licensed direct shipper, or carrier] in an action or proceeding arising out of enforcement of this [act] or other law of this state regulating the shipment of alcoholic

1	beverages directly to individuals in this state. If a registered logistics shipper[, licensed direct
2	shipper, or carrier] fails to maintain in the records of the [commission] a current agent for service
3	of process or if the current agent cannot be served with reasonable diligence, the [commission] is
4	the agent for service of process.
5	(e) The [commission] may disclose a report, record, order, or other information in its
6	possession, for a regulatory or enforcement purpose, to:
7	(1) a state agency or law enforcement agency of this state [or a local agency in
8	this state with regulatory authority relating to alcoholic beverages];
9	(2) a local or state agency in another state with regulatory authority over matters
10	relating to alcoholic beverages or taxation or a law enforcement agency of another state; and
11	(3) a federal agency with regulatory authority relating to alcoholic beverages or
12	taxation or a federal law enforcement agency.
13	(f) The [commission] may disclose to the public an order resulting from a completed
14	investigation.
15 16 17 18	Legislative Note: Optional bracketed language in this section allows the state to impose requirements on a licensed direct shipper or carrier if the state's law does not already include a similar provision.
19 20 21	Include the bracketed language in subsection $(e)(1)$ if political subdivisions in the state share authority with a state agency in regulating alcoholic beverages.
22 23 24	A state may need to amend its public records law to allow disclosure under subsections (e) and (f).
25	Comment
26 27 28 29 30 31	Many states require licensed direct shippers to consent to jurisdiction, appoint an agent for service of process, provide records upon request, and allow audits and inspections. Similar requirements may also apply to carriers, although carriers by definition conduct physical operations (package delivery) within the territorial limits of the state so jurisdiction is evident.
32	Subsection (a) asserts the enacting state's jurisdiction over registered logistics shippers,

whether located in the enacting state or another state, and further asserts jurisdiction over licensed direct shippers and carriers if the optional language is included. (This jurisdictional provision is not necessary for an entity with significant in-state operations, like a carrier or instate direct shipper.) Subsection (a) operates in conjunction with Section 3(c)(3) to ensure that out-of-state logistics shippers registered to ship alcoholic beverages to the enacting state's consumers are subject to jurisdiction in the enacting state. Subsection (a) does not assert jurisdiction over a person that is not licensed or registered in the enacting state and is not regularly operating within the enacting state. Whether the enacting state has jurisdiction over an unlicensed or unregistered "bad actor" unlawfully shipping into the state will be determined on a fact-specific basis under the state's long-arm statute in light of constitutional due process considerations, such as whether the bad actor has "minimum contacts" with the state. See Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz, 471 U.S. 462 (1985); Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington, 362 U.S. 310 (1945).

Subsection (e) allows the state regulator in the enacting state to share information with regulators in other states, and with other officials in the same state and federal officials. This provision allows states to easily cooperate to stop unlawful interstate shipping. Although Section 5(f) generally makes reports related to direct-to-consumer shipping confidential, an exception in Section 5(g) allows these reports or information from the reports to be shared as provided in subsection (e).

The enforcement provisions of Section 6 apply with respect to all alcoholic beverages. Even if the enacting state limits authorized shipping to wine only, the state has a strong interest in detecting and stopping unlawful shipments of any type of alcoholic beverage. The state also has a strong interest in enforcing tax obligations, and the right to records inspection in Section 6 helps the state ensure appropriate tax collections.

Section 2 defines a record to include electronic materials.

Section 5(f) and (g) generally require reports from registered logistics shippers, as well as reports from licensed direct shippers and carriers if the act's optional language is incorporated, to be kept confidential. There is likely a provision of the enacting state's law that already governs the confidentiality of other records and information maintained by the Commission. Therefore, the act does not include a general statement of confidentiality for these other records and information similar to Section 5(f) but does clarify in Section 6(e) and (f) instances in which certain information can always be disclosed.

# Section 7. Notice to Carrier of Consignor's Unlawful Shipment; Administrative

# Order

(a) If the [commission] has reason to believe that alcoholic beverages have been shipped unlawfully into or within this state, the [commission] may give notice to the consignor requiring the consignor to show cause why shipments by the consignor into or within this state should not

- be prohibited. If the [commission], after an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing, determines
- 2 that the consignor shipped alcoholic beverages into or within this state unlawfully, the
- 3 [commission] may issue an administrative order prohibiting additional shipments by the
- 4 consignor of alcoholic beverages into or within this state.
- 5 (b) The [commission] may give notice to a carrier of the administrative order under
- 6 subsection (a). Except as provided in subsection (d), beginning 10 days after the date of the
- 7 notice, and until the carrier receives notice that the administrative order is rescinded, the carrier
- 8 may not accept from the consignor identified in the notice, for shipment into or within this state,
- 9 a package known by the carrier to contain an alcoholic beverage.
- 10 (c) [For good cause,] the [commission] may rescind an administrative order issued under
- subsection (a). On rescinding the order, the [commission] shall give notice of the rescission to
- each carrier that received notice under subsection (b) of the order.
- 13 (d) The [commission] may not hold a hearing under subsection (a) less than [30] days
- after the date of the notice requiring the consignor to show cause unless:
- 15 (1) the consignor agrees to an earlier hearing date; or
- 16 (2) the notice describes with particularity how the consignor's alleged unlawful
- shipment poses a serious risk to public health or safety.
- (e) If the notice includes a description under subsection (d)(2) and the [commission]
- issues an administrative order under subsection (a):
- 20 (1) the order must identify the risk; and
- 21 (2) the [commission's] notice under subsection (b) to a carrier must require the
- carrier to implement the order as soon as possible.
- 23 (f) An administrative order issued under subsection (a) is subject to judicial review under

[cite to state administrative procedure act].

Legislative Note: A state may replace the bracketed term "good cause" in subsection (c) with more specific criteria for rescinding an administrative order.

#### **Comment**

This section provides an enforcement mechanism to aid the enacting state in stopping unlawful alcohol shipping into or within the state, particularly by unlicensed shippers. The advantage of this mechanism is that it involves an administrative proceeding rather than a court action. If the state regulator detects an unlawful shipment of alcoholic beverages into or within the state, the state regulator may give notice to the consignor to show cause why shipments from the consignor should not be enjoined. After affording the consignor an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing, the state regulator may determine that the consignor has unlawfully shipped alcoholic beverages into or within the enacting state and issue an administrative order prohibiting additional shipments of alcoholic beverages into or within the state by the consignor. The state regulator may give notice of the administrative order to any carrier, whether it be the carrier that delivered the unlawful shipment or other carriers in the state. Beginning 10 days after this notice, the carrier may not accept from the consignor identified in the notice any package known to contain alcohol, except that this 10-day period is shortened if the consignor's shipment poses a serious risk to public health or safety. The act neither limits carriers to accepting packages from only an authorized list of shippers, nor prohibits carriers from accepting packages from an everchanging list of banned consignors. The notice to a carrier under the act is specific to a single consignor and permanent unless the carrier receives a subsequent notice that the administrative order has been rescinded.

Under Section 3, if a registered logistics shipper unlawfully ships alcoholic beverages into or within the enacting state, the regulator may suspend or revoke the logistics shipper's registration and the logistics shipper may not thereafter ship alcoholic beverages into or within the state. The act presumes that the enacting state's existing law provides similar authority to suspend or revoke a direct-shipper license if the licensed direct shipper unlawfully ships alcoholic beverages into or within the state. The most significant aspect of this section is to provide state regulators with an enforcement tool when there is no registration or license to take action against. Nonetheless, a state regulator could pursue an administrative order under this section against a consignor that is a registered logistics shipper or licensed direct shipper, including pursuing an administrative order in tandem with a proceeding to suspend or revoke the logistics shipper registration or direct-shipper license.

Most states have enacted a general prohibition making it unlawful to ship alcoholic beverages into the state unless the shipper is authorized to do so. In some states, the statute prohibits any person from shipping alcoholic beverages into the state except to a licensed wholesaler, with an exception recognized for certain licensed direct-to-consumer shippers. Other states specifically prohibit direct-to-consumer shipments unless the shipper holds a specified direct-shipper license. (Approximately four states allow direct-to-consumer shipments with no required license.) This act presumes, and relies on, the enacting state's existing general prohibition and does not include a blanket ban on unlicensed direct-to-consumer shipments.

In subsection (c), the state may wish to replace the "good cause" standard with specific 1 2 requirements or criteria for rescinding an administrative order. The act also allows the state, in 3 Section 10, to adopt rules to define, or establish guidelines for determining, "good cause." 4 5 Section 8. Suspension, Revocation, or Nonrenewal of License or Permit for Unlawful 6 **Shipping into Another State** 7 (a) [Except as provided in subsections (b) and (d) and subject to subsection (g), the] The 8 [commission] [or other applicable authority] may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a [license] 9 [permit] to produce, distribute, or sell alcoholic beverages issued by the [commission] [or other 10 applicable authority] if the [commission] [or other applicable authority] finds, after notice and an 11 opportunity for an evidentiary hearing, that the person holding the [license] [permit] has shipped 12 alcoholic beverages into another state in violation of that state's law. 13 [(b) The [commission] [or other applicable authority] may not suspend, revoke, or refuse 14 to renew a [license] [permit] issued by the [commission] [or other applicable authority] under 15 subsection (a) if the person holding the [license] [permit] shows that: 16 (1) the violation of the other state's law is the subject of an enforcement action in 17 the other state that is pending before an administrative body or trial or appellate court in the other 18 state; 19 (2) an enforcement action described in paragraph (1) has concluded in the other 20 state and resulted in a determination that no violation of the other state's law occurred; or 21 (3) the violation of the other state's law occurred more than [two] years before the 22 date of the notice under subsection (a).] 23 [(c) A suspension or revocation of a [license] [permit] under subsection (a) is not 24 effective until all administrative proceedings are concluded and administrative remedies 25 exhausted.]

1	[(d) The [commission] [or other applicable authority] may not under subsection (a)
2	suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a [license] [permit] issued by the [commission] [or other
3	applicable authority] unless the [licensee or permittee] ships alcoholic beverages into another
4	state in violation of that state's law after the [commission] [or other applicable authority] issues a
5	cease and desist [order] [letter].]
6	[(e) The [commission] [or other applicable authority] shall determine the duration of a
7	suspension under subsection (a). The suspension may not exceed [60] days for a first violation or
8	[120] days for a subsequent violation not later than [three] years after imposition of the prior
9	suspension. If the [commission] [or other applicable authority] revokes a [license] [permit] under
10	subsection (a), the [licensee or permittee] may not reapply for issuance of the same [license]
11	[permit] for [one year] after the date of the revocation.]
12	[(f) A suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a [license] [permit] under this section is
13	subject to judicial review under [cite to state administrative procedure act].]
14	[(g) Instead of suspending, revoking, or refusing to renew a [license] [permit] under
15	subsection (a), the [commission] [or other applicable authority] and the [licensee or permittee]
16	may agree to [an offer in compromise under which the [licensee or permittee] pays to the
17	[commission] [or other applicable authority]] an administrative penalty.]
18	[(h) After the [commission] [or other applicable authority] has given notice initiating a
19	proceeding under subsection (a) to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a [license] [permit], the
20	[licensee or permittee] may not surrender the [license] [permit] without the consent of the
21	[commission] [or other applicable authority].]
22 23	Legislative Note: Include in this section each license-issuing authority in the state.
24 25	A state may limit the administrative authority granted under subsection (a) by adopting subsection (b).

If existing law governs suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal of alcoholic beverage licenses or permits, a state may choose to amend that law. Subsections (c) through (h) are bracketed because the state may prefer to amend existing law and not adopt subsections (c) through (h) as inconsistent with the state's administrative process.

A state that issues both licenses and permits should retain both terms in this section.

In subsection (d), a state may insert "order" rather than "letter", depending on the formality of its cease-and-desist process.

The bracketed clause in subsection (g) allows the state to refer to the settlement process by the term "offer in compromise" used by many states and the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

#### Comment

This section allows the enacting state to, for example, take action against a retailer licensed in the enacting state if the retailer is unlawfully shipping alcohol into another state in violation of that state's law. A retailer that does so risks losing its retail license in its home state. The provision facilitates cooperation among state regulators, as the retailer's unlawful shipping is likely to come to light as a result of information provided by regulators in other states. The retailer's home state must afford the retailer due process in any action taken against the retailer.

Each state issues various forms of alcoholic beverage licenses or permits. There may also be more than one issuing authority in the enacting state. For example, the state may issue licenses to producers, but local governments may issue licenses to retailers or wholesalers. Each state has some form of existing process and standards for the suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal of alcoholic beverage licenses or permits. Accordingly, at least some portion of this section is likely to already be covered by the enacting state's law, and that is why most of the section is bracketed as optional. The state may prefer to address the topics contained in this section by amendment of its existing law governing the administrative process applicable to its alcoholic beverage licensing system.

While subsection (c) includes a three-year "look back" period in counting prior violations, many states place no limit on the "look back" period. Regarding subsections (b) and (e), some states provide for a cease-and-desist "warning" process and allow settlement of violations through an offer-in-compromise process and some do not. Regarding subsection (f), the enacting state may already preclude a licensee from surrendering a license while an administrative enforcement proceeding is pending unless the license-issuing authority consents to the surrender.

# [Section 9. Penalties

- 43 (a) A court may impose a penalty on:
- 44 (1) a logistics shipper that violates:

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1
                              (A) Section 3(e)(1), (2), or (4); or
 2
                              (B) Section 3(d) or (e)(3), 5(a), or 6(b) or (d); [and]
 3
                      (2) a carrier that violates[:
 4
                              (A)] Section 4 or 7(b)[; or
 5
                              (B) Section 5(c) or 6(b) or (d)]; and
 6
                      (3) a licensed direct shipper that violates Section 5(b) or 6(b) or (d)].
 7
              (b) The court may impose a separate penalty for each violation under subsection (a).
 8
              (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the penalty for a violation under:
 9
                      (1) subsection (a)(1)(A) is [not more than \$1,000];
10
                      (2) subsection (a)(1)(B) is [not more than $100]; [and]
11
                      (3) subsection [(a)(2)(A)][(a)(2)] is [not more than $1,000][;]
12
                      [(4) subsection (a)(2)(B) is [not more than $100]][; and]
13
                      [(5) subsection (a)(3) is [not more than $100]].
14
              (d) For a violation that occurs not later than [three] years after imposition of a penalty
15
      under subsection (c), the penalty for a violation under:
16
                      (1) subsection (a)(1)(A) is [not more than $5,000];
17
                      (2) subsection (a)(1)(B) is [not more than $500]; [and]
18
                      (3) subsection [(a)(2)(A)][(a)(2)] is [not more than $5,000][;]
19
                      [(4) subsection (a)(2)(B) is [not more than $500]][; and]
20
                      [(5) subsection (a)(3) is [not more than $500]].
21
              (e) A violation of a rule adopted by the [commission] under this [act] is a violation of the
22
      provision of this [act] to which the rule relates.]
23
      Legislative Note: A state should omit this section if it prefers to add these penalties to its existing
24
      alcoholic beverages law.
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A state that generally makes a violation of alcoholic beverages law a criminal offense may need to amend other provisions of state law may to accommodate the creation in this section of only civil penalties or the state may substitute criminal penalties in this section. A state should enact subsections (a)(2)(B) and (3), (c)(4) and (5), and (d)(4) and (5) only if the state enacts the corresponding optional language in Sections 5 and 6. The state should ensure that the text in these provisions is consistent. If a state requires licensed direct shippers to submit reports under existing law, it should conform the penalties under this section for logistics shippers to the penalties under existing law for licensed direct shippers. In subsection (d)(3) and (4): if a state does not enact subsection (a)(2)(B), the state should refer to subsection (a)(2). **Comment** Some states prescribe general penalties that apply to almost any violation of the state's alcoholic beverage laws. Accordingly, at least some portion of this section may already be covered by the enacting state's law. It is also common for violations of a state's alcoholic beverage laws to be criminal offenses. The creation in the act of only civil penalties might not be consistent with the state's approach to penalizing alcoholic beverage violations. The penalties imposed under this section are imposed by a court. The act does not include any provision specifying who may bring a court enforcement proceeding. Depending on the state, the action might be brought by the attorney general, a district attorney or city attorney, or the regulatory agency. This act presumes that each state will continue to rely on existing law that specifies which agencies or governmental units may bring an enforcement action. Section 10. Rules The [commission] may adopt rules under [cite to state administrative procedure act] to

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The [commission] may adopt rules under [cite to state administrative procedure act] to administer, enforce, implement, or interpret this [act], including rules concerning:

(1) a form under this [act];

(2) the method for submitting a logistics-shipper-registration application; [and]

(3) the method and deadline for filing a report, including the format for an electronic report[;] [and]

[(4) appointing and maintaining an agent for service of process[;] [and]]

[(5) procedures providing due process in administrative proceedings under this

1	[act] [;] [and]]
2	[(6) a definition of, or guidelines for determining, "good cause" for purposes of
3	Sections 3(f) and 7(c)].
4 5	<b>Legislative Note:</b> A state should include this section only if the state's administrative procedure act does not provide adequate rulemaking authority to the state agency.
6 7	Section 11. Uniformity of Application and Construction
8	In applying and construing this uniform act, a court shall consider the promotion of
9	uniformity of the law among jurisdictions that enact it.
10	Section 12. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act
11	This [act] modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National
12	Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001 et seq.[, as amended], but does not modify, limit, or
13	supersede 15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices
14	described in 15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b).
15 16 17 18 19 20	Legislative Note: It is the intent of this act to incorporate future amendments to the cited federal law. In a state in which the constitution or other law does not permit incorporation of future amendments when a federal statute is incorporated into state law, the phrase "as amended" should be omitted. The phrase also should be omitted in a state in which, in the absence of a legislative declaration, future amendments are incorporated into state law.
21	[Section 13. Transitional Provision
22	(a) A [license] [permit] issued by the [commission] [to a person to ship covered alcoholic
23	beverages on behalf of another to an individual in this state] that is in effect on [the effective date
24	of this [act]] continues until the earlier of its date of expiration or [three] months after [the
25	effective date of this [act]]. During this period, the person holding the [license] [permit] may
26	continue activity authorized under the [license] [permit] and is subject to the law of this state
27	applicable to the [license] [permit] as it existed immediately before [the effective date of this
28	[act]]. On expiration of this period, the person holding the [license] [permit] is subject to this

1	[act].
2	(b) A person that does not hold a [license] [permit] [to ship covered alcoholic beverages
3	on behalf of another to an individual in this state] on [the effective date of this [act]] is subject to
4	this [act] on and after [the effective date of this [act]].]
5 6 7	<b>Legislative Note:</b> A state should include this section only if it already issues fulfillment-provider or logistics-shipper licenses or permits.
8 9	A state may substitute another form of authorization in lieu of the term license or permit.
10 11	Comment
12 13 14 15 16	A few states authorize by license, registration, or otherwise the operations of fulfillment providers or logistics shippers. If the enacting state is such a state, this section provides a "phase in" during which the state's existing system is replaced with the logistics shipper registration system under the act.
17	[Section 14. Severability
18	If a provision of this [act] or its application to a person or circumstance is held invalid,
19	the invalidity does not affect another provision or application that can be given effect without the
20	invalid provision.]
21 22 23	Legislative Note: Include this section only if the state lacks a general severability statute or a decision by the highest court of the state adopting a general rule of severability.
24	[Section 15. Repeals; Conforming Amendments
25	[(a)] Current direct-to-consumer alcoholic beverage shipping law relating to a fulfillment
26	provider or logistics shipper.]
27	[(b)]
28 29 30	<b>Legislative Note:</b> The state should examine its statutes to determine whether conforming revisions are required by provisions of this act relating to public records. See Sections 5(f) and (g) and 6(e).
31 32	Section 16. Effective Date
33	This [act] takes effect

1	Legislative Note: A state may include a delayed effective date of at least 60 days to allow time
2	for agencies and industry members to prepare for implementation.