STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
STATE HOUSE ANNEX
25 CAPITOL STREET, ROOM 234
CONCORD, NH 03301

Rulemaking Notice Form

Notice Number: 2026-143

Rule Number: Liq 600

1. **Agency:** Liquor Commission
   Agency Address: 50 Storrs Street Concord NH 03301

2. **RSA Authority:** RSA 179:56; RSA 126-K:18

3. **Federal Authority:**

4. **Action(s):** Adoption, Repeal, Readopt w/Amendment

5. **Short Title:** Enforcement Policy

6. **(a) Summary of what the rule says and of any proposed amendments including whether the rule implements a state statute for the first time:**

   The proposed rules revise the administrative penalty matrix and enforcement structure under RSA 178, RSA 179, and RSA 126-K. They incorporate multiple penalty provisions that were previously missing or incorrectly placed, including the newly added penalties for RSA 179:13, which had been located in the wrong section of the matrix and is now properly included, and RSA 179:33, whose statutorily set fine was not previously reflected. The matrix also now includes new violations created under SB80, specifically RSA 178:19-a VII & VIII, RSA 178:19-e IV, and RSA 178:19-f IV & VI, each requiring addition of corresponding penalty provisions. The rules further add penalties for RSA 179:8, III form HB 77 (2025), reflecting new statutory restrictions on recording, retaining, or storing information obtained through ID scanning.

   All updates related to aggravated violations under RSA 179:5, including the enhanced penalties for violations resulting in serious bodily injury or death, are incorporated pursuant to HB 529, which strengthened statutory penalty requirements and mandated higher fines and suspension minimums for these violations. These changes ensure the penalty matrix aligns with HB 529's intent to increase public-safety protections and impose stronger consequences for serving intoxicated individuals.

Several tobacco-related penalties under RSA 126-K are updated to implement the statutory repeal of the former youth tobacco fine schedule and the shift to administrative penalties established by rule. These changes also incorporate the 2020 increase of the legal tobacco sales age from 19 to 21, aligning tobacco penalties with underage alcohol penalties as intended by the legislature. Additionally, RSA 179:19 and RSA 178:19 penalties are updated to reflect expanded statutory fine provisions enacted under SB80 in 2025, while RSA 179:5-a and its penalty are repealed entirely.

Beyond these statutory updates, the proposal reorganizes portions of the penalty matrix to reflect current law, corrects previously omitted entries, adjusts point values and fine ranges, and updates suspension guidelines. The revisions also integrate expanded progressive discipline requirements and updated aggravating and mitigating factors, ensuring all administrative penalty provisions accurately reflect current statutory authority and legislative changes.

This proposal is not implementing a statute for the first time.

6. **(b) Brief description of the groups affected:**

The proposed rule changes primarily affect all businesses licensed to sell alcohol or tobacco products. These licensees are impacted by revisions to the penalty matrix that update fines, suspensions, and point assignments for violations under RSA 175–180 and RSA 126-K, as shown throughout the draft rules.

6. **(c) Specific section or sections of state statute or federal statute or regulation which the rule is intended to implement:**

RULE	STATUTE
Liq 601	RSA 179:56, III(a) and RSA 179:57, I
Liq 602	RSA 179:56, I; 179:56, III(a); RSA 179:57, I
Liq 602.01	RSA 178; RSA 179; RSA 180; RSA 126-K
Liq 602.02	RSA 178:5
Liq 602.03	RSA 179:5, I-a and RSA 179:5, I-b
Liq 602.06	RSA 126-K; RSA 179
Liq 603	RSA 179:56, III(a) and RSA 179:57, I

7. **Contact person for copies and questions including requests to accommodate persons with disabilities:**

Name: Peters, Patricia	**Title:** Director of Administration
Address: 50 Storrs Street, Concord NH 03301	**Phone Number:** (603) 230-3199
	FAX Number: (603) 230-3199
	Email: patricia.l.peters@liquor.nh.gov

8. **Deadline for submission of materials in writing or, if practicable for the agency, in the electronic format specified:**
Thursday, August 27, 2026

_ **Fax**
X **Email** patricia.l.peters@liquor.nh.gov
_ **Other**

9. **Public hearing scheduled for:**
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026
Time: 1:30 PM
Place: NHLC Headquarters
50 Storrs Street
Concord NH 03301

Electronic Access, if applicable: N/A

10. **Fiscal Impact Statement (Prepared by Legislative Budget Assistant):**

FIS #: 26:128 , dated: Friday, July 17, 2026

1. Comparison of the costs of the proposed rule(s) to the existing rule(s):

When compared to the existing rules, the proposed rules will increase state revenues and increase costs for independently owned businesses. Not applicable to Liq 603.01, as this is a new rule, and not applicable to Liq 603.02, as this rule is being repealed.

2. Cite the Federal mandate. Identify the impact on state funds:

No Federal mandate, no impact on state funds.

3. Cost and benefits of the proposed rule(s):

The proposed rules revise the administrative penalty matrix for violations under RSA 178, RSA 179, and RSA 126-K by adding penalty provisions for certain violations not previously reflected in the administrative penalty matrix, updating certain penalty provisions, correcting previously omitted penalty provisions, repealing one penalty provision, and reorganizing the administrative penalty matrix to reflect current law. The proposed rules also revise the administrative penalty structure for violations of RSA 126 K following statutory changes that authorize administrative penalties to be established by rule. Many of the remaining changes implement statutory changes, incorporate penalty provisions previously omitted from the administrative penalty matrix, or reorganize existing penalty provisions.

A. To State general or State special funds:

The Commission anticipates the proposed rules will increase State General Fund fine revenue by $10,000 or more annually due to additional administrative fine revenue resulting from the revised administrative penalty matrix.

B. To State citizens and political subdivisions:

None.

C. To independently owned businesses:

The proposed rules may increase costs to independently owned businesses that are subject to the revised administrative penalties. The proposed rules do not impose significant additional administrative or compliance requirements beyond those already required by statute.

11. **Statement Relative to Part I, Article 28-a of the N.H. Constitution:**

The proposed rule does not violate Part I, Article 28-a of the N.H. Constitution. The proposed rules does not create a new program or responsibility but seeks to expand or modify an existing program or responsibility. However, the rule does not mandate or assign responsibility to any political subdivision that would increase the cost the political subdivision must pay.