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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 1514

02/25/2021

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; easing restrictions on bars, restaurants, and certain
1.3 other places of public accommodation in greater Minnesota.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **COVID-19 BAR AND RESTAURANT RESTRICTIONS IN GREATER**
1.6 **MINNESOTA.**

1.7 (a) For purposes of this section "greater Minnesota bars and restaurants" means bars,
1.8 restaurants, and other places of public accommodation that offer food, beverages, or tobacco
1.9 products for on-premises consumption and are not located in the seven-county metropolitan
1.10 area or a city of the first class.

1.11 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (e) and notwithstanding any law or executive order
1.12 to the contrary, beginning April 1, 2021, greater Minnesota bars and restaurants are exempt
1.13 from executive orders promulgated in response to a peacetime emergency declared and
1.14 extended for the infectious disease known as COVID-19 that limit occupancy, require
1.15 physical distancing or facial coverings, or otherwise direct or control the conduct of persons
1.16 at bars, restaurants, and other places of public accommodation.

1.17 (c) The following restrictions apply to greater Minnesota bars and restaurants and may
1.18 be enforced as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 12.45:

1.19 (1) all employees must wear a face covering while Emergency Executive Order 20-81
1.20 or a subsequent executive order requiring face coverings in bars, restaurants, and other
1.21 places of public accommodation is in effect; and

1.22 (2) food, beverage, and tobacco service must end no later than 11:00 p.m. each night.

2.1 (d) By May 1, 2021, the commissioner of health must report whether available evidence
2.2 indicates that the easing of restrictions under this section caused a statistically significant
2.3 increase in new COVID-19 cases in greater Minnesota. If the commissioner of health cannot
2.4 conclude that the easing caused a statistically significant increase, the 11:00 p.m. restriction
2.5 under paragraph (c), clause (2), expires May 1, 2021.

2.6 (e) After the effective date of this section, if the commissioner of health determines that
2.7 a greater Minnesota bar or restaurant is the source of a statistically significant increase in
2.8 new COVID-19 cases, the establishment shall be subject to executive orders promulgated
2.9 in response to a peacetime emergency declared and extended for the infectious disease
2.10 known as COVID-19 that limit occupancy, require physical distancing or facial coverings,
2.11 or otherwise direct or control the conduct of persons at bars, restaurants, and other places
2.12 of public accommodation.

2.13 (f) At least weekly during the peacetime emergency, the Office of the Governor must
2.14 update bars, restaurants, and other places of public accommodation regarding COVID-19
2.15 case rates, the status and development of relevant executive orders, and other pertinent
2.16 information.

2.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and
2.18 expires the same day that the peacetime emergency declared and extended for the infectious
2.19 disease known as COVID-19 expires, is terminated, or is rescinded by the proper authority.