SUMMARY: House Bill 327 amends the Liquor Code in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing for prepared beverages and mixed drinks for off-premises consumption during disaster emergency.

ANALYSIS: The legislation amends the Liquor Code by allowing for the sale of prepared beverages and mixed drinks for off-premise consumption during the COVID-19 disaster emergency by those possessing a valid restaurant or hotel liquor license when that licensee lost more than 25% of their average monthly sales, including alcohol sales, as a result of the emergency.

Prepared beverages and mixed drinks must be sold in a sealed container in amounts of no less than four fluid ounces and no more than sixty-four fluid ounces. A licensee shall only be able to sell prepared beverages and mixed drinks for the duration of the COVID-19 disaster emergency, and during the mitigation period after the termination of the disaster emergency in which a licensee is operating at less than 60% capacity.

Furthermore, a licensee may sell liquor to another licensee qualified to sell prepared beverages and mixed drinks during the COVID-19 disaster emergency, and during the mitigation period after the termination of the disaster emergency in which a licensee is operating at less than 60% capacity.

The act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. To the extent that this legislation results in additional sales of spirits, additional revenue may be received by the Commonwealth via the State Stores Fund, but the amount is indeterminable.