

# Calendar No. 961.

64TH CONGRESS, }  
2d Session. }

SENATE.

} REPORT  
} No. 1076.

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## FIXING THE MINIMUM FERMENTING PERIOD AT 48 HOURS.

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FEBRUARY 19, 1917.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Maine, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10749.]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10749) amending section 3285 of the Revised Statutes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that the bill do pass.

The report of the Ways and Means Committee of the House is appended hereto and made a part hereof.

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[House Report No. 782, Sixty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill 10749, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The object of the bill is to amend section 3285 of the Revised Statutes so as to permit distillers to empty their fermenting tubs any time after 48 hours as a minimum fermenting period. At present they are only permitted to fill these tubs once in 72 hours, the actual fermenting period being, however, in some processes, 30 to 35 hours. The distillers are therefore obliged to keep their tubs empty until the actual fermenting period of 72 hours is completed. In doing this the fermenters are rendered foul, and it is necessary that they apply a great deal of extra work in washing and cleaning these tubs which could be avoided if the amendment to section 3285 as proposed in the bill herewith reported is approved and passed.

If the change of time would be allowed the distillers could increase their capacity 50 per cent with the same number of tubs that they now have at their plants, meaning, of course, a greater revenue from this source to the Government without any additional cost for inspection.

Herewith is appended letter from the Treasury Department addressed to Hon. George W. Edmonds approving of the bill with the suggestions that certain amendments be made. These amendments were embodied in the accompanying bill.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE,  
Washington, February 2, 1916.

Hon. GEORGE W. EDMONDS,  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 27th ultimo, inclosing draft of a bill further amending section 3285, Revised Statutes, as amended,

and requesting to be advised if there is any objection to the enactment into law of the proposed bill.

In reply I would state that there would appear to be no objection to the enactment into law of the proposed bill, or one of like purport.

It is suggested that the proposed amendment be changed to read "unless the distiller, upon giving the proper notice, is granted permission by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to fill not oftener than once in forty-eight hours."

In the copy of the bill submitted the words "end of the," which appear in section 3285, are omitted in the second line of the second paragraph following the word "the" and before the words "fermenting period."

Respectfully,

DAVID A. GATES,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

