

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

Act Number: PA 06-30
Bill Number: 5667
Senate Pages: Senate: 1389, 1632-1635 5
House Pages: House: 1030-1031, 1254-1255 4
Committee: General Law: 1430, 1443-1449, 1523, 1526, 1550-1551, 1552-1553, 1572-1575 15

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS
2006

VOL. 49
PART 5
1310-1637F

pat
Senate

April 20, 2006

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 358, House
Bill 5682, would move to place this item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 359, House
Bill 5667, would move to place this item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 370, Pass
Temporarily.

Calendar 372, Pass, retaining its place on the
Calendar.

Calendar 378, House Bill 5182, Mr. President,
would move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

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pendency of a roll call vote in the Senate on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the
Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators
please return to the Chamber.

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the
Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators
please return to the Chamber.

Mr. President, those items previously placed on
today's Consent Calendar begin on Calendar Page 3.

Calendar 225, Substitute for Senate Bill 463.

Calendar Page 4, Calendar 259, Senate Bill 386.

Calendar Page 6, Calendar 357, House Bill 5183.

Calendar 358, House Bill 5682.

Calendar 359, House Bill 5667.

Calendar Page 7, Calendar 378, Substitute for
House Bill 5182.

Calendar 380, House Bill 5558.

Calendar Page 8, Calendar 387, House Bill 5738.

Calendar 389, Substitute for House Bill 5042.

Calendar Page 14, Calendar 33, Substitute for
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Calendar Page 16, Calendar 91, Senate Bill 86.

Calendar 94, Substitute for Senate Bill 228.

Calendar Page 17, Calendar 133, Senate Bill 294.

Calendar Page 18, Calendar 176, Substitute for
Senate Bill 425.

Calendar Page 19, Calendar 178, Substitute for
Senate Bill 554.

Calendar Page 22, Calendar 249, Substitute for
Senate Bill 71.

Calendar Page 22, Calendar 257, Substitute for
Senate Bill 313.

Calendar Page 23, Calendar 269, Substitute for
Senate Bill 316.

Calendar 272, Substitute for Senate Bill 359.

Calendar Page 25, Calendar 361, Substitute for
House Joint Resolution 20.

Calendar Page 26, Calendar 362, Substitute for
House Joint Resolution 22.

Calendar 363, House Joint Resolution 28.

Calendar 364, House Joint Resolution 36.

Calendar 371, House Joint Resolution 49.

Calendar Page 27, Calendar 373, House Joint
Resolution 51.

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Calendar 374, House Joint Resolution 53.

Calendar 375, House Joint Resolution 59.

Mr. President, that completes those items previously placed on the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar No. 1.

Total number voting, 33; necessary for adoption, 17. Those voting "yea", 33; those voting "nay", 0. Those absent and not voting, 3.

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THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Mr. Majority
Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President,
that concludes our business for this evening. It is
our intention to convene tomorrow at noon to proceed
with the business on that date.

A couple of Journal notations, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Ciotto and
Senator Daily were both absent today and missed votes
due to illness.

THE CHAIR:

The Journal will so note, Sir.

SEN. LOONEY:

Mr. President, also, I believe the Clerk is in
possession of Senate Agenda No. 2.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

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House of Representatives

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On Page 5, Calendar Number 120, House Bill Number 5682, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, Favorable Report of the Committee on General Law.

SPEAKER AMANN:

Representative Christ.

REP. CHRIST: (11th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am about to indicate the bills for the Consent Calendar, which we'll vote on later today.

For the Membership's information, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to note that the Go List indicates that Calendar Number 297 is a potential consent item. This will not be on the Consent Calendar. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move the following items be on the Consent Calendar.

Calendar Number 120, House Bill Number 5682, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, Calendar Number 175, House Bill Number 5667, Calendar Number 293, Senate Bill Number 19, Calendar Number 297, Senate Bill Number 190--

SPEAKER AMANN:

Representative Christ, can you check on that, please?

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REP. CHRIST: (11th)

I have Calendar Number 293, Senate Bill Number
19. Calendar Number 295, Senate Bill Number 190.
Calendar Number 198, Senate Bill Number 336. Calendar
Number 300, Senate Bill Number 384.

Calendar Number 302, Senate Bill Number 441. And
Calendar Number 111, House Bill Number 5284. And that
is our Consent Calendar, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER AMANN:

Thank you, Sir. The motion, just to clarify,
before us, to place the following items on the Consent
Calendar for action later in the day.

The calendar numbers are again, once again,
Calendar Number 120, Calendar Number 175, Calendar
Number 293, Calendar Number 295, Calendar Number 298,
Calendar Number 300, Calendar Number 302, and Calendar
Number 111.

Is there objection to the motion? Is there
objection? If not, hearing none, those items are
placed on the Consent Calendar for action later today.
The Clerk please call Calendar Number 73.

CLERK:

sae
House of Representatives

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On Page 5, Calendar Number 120, House Bill Number 5682, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, Favorable Report of the Committee on General Law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Christ.

REP. CHRIST: (11th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To remind the Members of the Chamber the items on the Consent Calendar today, Calendar Number 120, Calendar Number 175, Calendar Number 293, excuse me. Strike Calendar Number 293.

HB 5682
HB 5667
SB 190
SB 305
SB 336
SB 384
SB 441
HB 5284

Calendar Number 295, Calendar Number 297, Calendar Number 298, Calendar Number 300, Calendar Number 302, and Calendar Number 211. I move adoption of the Bills on the Calendar, I move passage of the Bills on the Consent Calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage of the Bills on today's Consent Calendar. Prepare for a vote. Members and, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open for a vote on today's Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

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House of Representatives

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The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting today's Consent Calendar by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the Members voted and is your vote properly recorded? If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bills on the Consent Calendar are passed.

Are there any announcements? Representative Sayers.

REP. SAYERS: (60th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Public Health Committee will hold a meeting, a committee meeting

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REP. STONE: Thank you, Jay for that. Anyone else have any comments or questions? Jay, thank you for [Gap in testimony. Changing from Tape 1A to Tape 1B.]

--move back to the regular agenda. The first item on the agenda is Senate Bill 501 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF WINE TO STATE RESIDENTS. Gary Crump.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's out in the hall. We can get him [inaudible-microphone not on]

REP. STONE: Okay, can you grab him for me please? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, he just informed me he's not going to testify on the bill.

REP. STONE: All right. Is Alan Wilensky here? Alan. Peter?

ALAN WILENSKY: Good afternoon, Members of the Committee. My name is Alan Wilensky. I'm here representing the Connecticut Package Store Association. I'm also the owner of a package store in East Lyme.

I was anticipating that Mr. Berdon was going to speak first, but that's okay, because he's going to have more technical information on this bill than actually I'm prepared to give at this point, so I will be brief.

Commissioner Rodriguez also brought up some very important information on this bill also,

SB501
HB5667, 5668

There already is the--

REP. STONE: What do you care? Why do you care?

PETER BERDON: Because, quite honestly, Representative Stone, you would be able to have manufacturers that would be able to come into the State of Connecticut, and compete directly with my client base.

REP. STONE: Thank you. Anyone else have any questions of Peter? Peter, thank you very much. We'll see you again, I think, right?

PETER BERDON: Yes. Thank you, Representative Stone and Senator Colapietro, and Members of the Committee. Thank you.

REP. STONE: House Bill 5667. Alan Wilensky. I'm sorry? Alan, yeah, you're up. What's the matter?

ALAN WILENSKY: I thought somebody else was going to be speaking.

REP. STONE: You need to keep track of who we call, not what's on the list.

ALAN WILENSKY: Okay.

REP. STONE: Peter signed up as a lobbyist, and so that's why he's not going to--

ALAN WILENSKY: My apologies. I was diverted.

REP. STONE: That's okay.

ALAN WILENSKY: Alan Wilensky again. House Bill 5667 regarding the registration of alcoholic brands and fees and price posting. We have had discussions with the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers over the last few weeks.

We have come to an agreement as far as the date of the posting. I believe it's in the bill as the 27th of the month.

We have assurances that this is specifically really to do with the Beverage Journal. There will be no significant changes as far as the retailers getting early pricing from the wholesalers in the manner in which we've gotten them on a slightly earlier basis.

We have agreement on this bill as far as the package stores are concerned. That's it. We're all [inaudible] happy.

REP. STONE: Thank you. Let me just, any questions before I? Alan, so you're in agreement with, obviously subject to what the Committee determines is the appropriate date.

It would appear on Line 69. Is that the [inaudible].

ALAN WILENSKY: I'm not sure I have a copy of that one, but--

REP. STONE: Right now it says not later than the 12th of the month.

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ALAN WILENSKY: Yes. That day was placed in last year. It is obviously earlier than is regulatorily possible with the way that the prices are posted with the Liquor Control.

We talked about a specific other date. The 27th is fine with us at this point.

REP. STONE: Okay. Anyone else have any comments or questions? Thank you very much, Alan. Laurie Buick.

LAURIE BUICK: Good afternoon. My name is Laurie Buick. I'm here for House Bill 5667.

I am the Director of Wholesaler Services for the Connecticut Beverage Journal located in Hamden.

Since September, 1945, the Connecticut Beverage Journal has been the official publication for current prices as officially filed by the respective wholesalers with the Department of Protection Liquor Control Commission.

The Journal is mailed to all retail permittees as prescribed by 30-63c of the Connecticut Liquor Statutes and Regulations. Excuse me. The schedule for the postings are filed with and approved by, the Liquor Control Commission by October of the previous year. Attached is the 2006 schedule.

This schedule takes into consideration file and amendment dates for the wholesalers, and printing and mailing for the retail permittees.

This schedule also has to take into consideration state holidays and weekends. Over 35,000 items are submitted and adjusted by the 12th of each month by each wholesaler with amended files electronically forwarded to our office four days, business days later.

At that time, the approximately 360-page price list section is sent to our printer with a 4-day turnaround. These Journals are now sent to the Wallingford mailing distribution center where it is entered and mailed.

This takes us to about the 26th or 27th of the month, or 6 business days after we receive the amended files.

We are currently testing a website for our wholesalers, and eventually retailers, giving them the ability to view the officially filed and amended prices.

Our hope is in time this will help to ensure the legal schedules that are in effect. We have made it clear that this in no way negates the current regulations that are required of our wholesalers in the State of Connecticut.

For 61 years, the Connecticut Beverage Journal has understood the importance of retail permittees receiving their prices on or before the first of the month.

In addition to fulfilling statutory obligation to furnish retailers with monthly prices in a printed format, the Beverage Journal supports

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the retail permittee by empowering them with a proven e-commerce technology.

For a nominal fee of \$35 each year, each retail permittee receives a secure user name and password, which allows the permittee to go on line 24 hours a day with an ordering system.

The retailer who chooses to obtain pricing via the Internet can currently do so following the close of amending period.

It also shows the monthly pricing of each wholesaler and has a search engine for their finding items.

Attached are screen samples from our website for the subscriber, and that's attached to my testimony.

And that's it. I'm done.

REP. STONE: Are you in favor or opposed to the bill?

LAURIE BUICK: In favor.

REP. STONE: In favor? Okay. This works for you to be able to get your notices out on time?

LAURIE BUICK: Able to get my? I'm sorry.

REP. STONE: Your notices out on time. This is--

LAURIE BUICK: Right. Right.

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REP. STONE: Okay. Anyone have any questions?
Thank you very much, Laurie, for your
testimony.

LAURIE BUICK: Thank you.

REP. STONE: Peter.

PETER BERDON: Thank you, Chairman Stone and
Chairman Colapietro, Members of the Committee.
My name is Peter Berdon. I'm the Executive
Director of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of
Connecticut.

You certainly heard a very thorough explanation
by the Connecticut Beverage Journal to physical
constraints of providing the prices by the 12th
of the month.

The 27th certainly works for our wholesalers,
and hopefully as technology improves, you know,
in the future, we'll be able to get those items
out more quickly.

But certainly, even now, retailers have the
ability to obtain the prices via the Internet
website by the 16th of the month, so we are in
support of the legislation.

If there are any questions, I'm happy to answer
them. Thank you.

REP. STONE: Would this have any impact on the
retailers' ability to advertise for sales for
subsequent months or market their product?

PETER BERDON: Certainly, Chairman Stone. For those retailers that do need to have pricing in advance of the 27th of the month, or to have in a different format prior to that date, wholesalers do provide what are called pricing sheets.

They're not the full beverage journal. Not every single price for every single item sold by the wholesaler.

What it is, is the major items that have price changes from the previous month are put on what are called price sheets. And those price sheets are actually available by the 12th of the month subject to a notation that they may be amended.

But they're usually pretty good. And then by the 16th of the month they're finalized, and for those retailers who need to have more lead time for newspaper advertising or other perk media, they can certainly utilize those pricing mechanisms.

REP. STONE: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else?

PETER BERDON: Thank you.

REP. STONE: Thank you, Peter.

PETER BERDON: Thank you, Chairman Stone and Chairman Colapietro.

REP. STONE: House Bill 5668. Jay Hibbard.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Testimony of
Department of Consumer Protection
Commissioner Edwin R. Rodriguez

SB 505 HB 5690
SB 501 HB 5673
SB 496 SB 506
SB 503 HB 5667

Presented to the General Law Committee
Thursday March 9, 2006

Senator Colapietro, Representative Stone, and members of the Committee, I am Edwin R. Rodriguez, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection. It is my pleasure to submit testimony on the following consumer and alcohol-related bills raised by the Committee that are of importance to the Department.

Senate Bill No. 451

An Act Concerning the New Motor Vehicle Lemon Law

This is a bill drafted and presented by the Department. The modifications proposed for the arbitration program process will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the "Lemon Law" program. Administratively the Department has difficulty training and scheduling three volunteer arbitrators for the approximately two hundred annually scheduled hearings. Managing the arbitrator document review, delivering case material, finding parking, cancelling and rescheduling hearings, securing substitutes logistically is a significant drain on the resources of this unit. In addition, the hearings have become more technical and difficult as the cost of new vehicles increased and manufacturers sought representation by competent counsel increasing the number of contested cases. Certified arbitrators would increase the level of proficiency while easing the administrative burden thus giving Connecticut consumers better service.

I ask the committee to allow the Department to amend language to the bill that will indicate the compensation of the one arbitrator is paid from a special enforcement fund that is funded through the three dollar surcharge that is currently being charged on each new automobile sold in Connecticut. The Department inadvertently omitted this language when the bill was drafted.

The Department has determined that there is no negative fiscal impact associated with the following bills, and favors the passage of each:

Senate Bill No. 496

**An Act Concerning Item Pricing of Consumer Commodities
&**

Senate Bill No. 506

An Act Concerning End Cap Displays

The Department worked on the language of these two related bills, which are the result of a working group created at the request of the Chairs of the General Law Committee during the 2005 Session. A comprehensive study of this issue was completed by the Department in January, and copies of our report were provided to the members of the General Law Committee. We strongly encourage passage of these two bills.

Senate Bill No. 503

An Act Concerning Gift Certificates, Gift Cards and Business Closing-Out Sales

This bill would require retail businesses which seek a closing out sales license with this department to include information concerning outstanding gift certificates, as a condition of licensure, along with currently required items, such as the inventory listing. Licensees would be required to honor existing gift certificates or gift cards. This will be an important consumer benefit and we support it.

House Bill No. 5667

An Act Concerning the Registration of Alcoholic Liquor Brands and Fees and Price Posting and Notice

The Department favors passage of this legislation, which would allow the electronic posting of liquor prices. The current statute states that prices are to be posted by either direct mail or by or advertising in a trade publication having a circulation among liquor retailers. This bill does not negatively impact our enforcement efforts, and we favor passage.



WINE AND SPIRITS WHOLESALERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

PETER A. BERDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GENERAL COUNSEL

GEORGE J. MONTANO
PRESIDENT EMERITUS

March 9, 2006

TESTIMONY OF WINE AND SPIRITS WHOLESALERS OF CONNECTICUT

In Opposition to:
SB00501 (PRIORITY)
AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF WINE TO STATE RESIDENTS.

In Support of:
HB05667
AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR BRANDS AND FEES AND PRICE POSTING AND NOTICE.

In Support of:
HB05668
AN ACT BANNING ALCOHOL WITHOUT LIQUID MACHINES.

In Support of:
HB05676
AN ACT LIMITING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY MINOR ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

In Support of:
HB05678 (PRIORITY)
AN ACT CONCERNING ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR WAREHOUSE PERMITS.

Introduction

The members of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut ("WSWC") are a key link in the 3-Tier System which controls the distribution of beverage alcohol in this country. They purchase beverage alcohol from suppliers and manufacturers and then market and sell those products to licensed retailers – restaurants and package stores. The members of the WSWC:

- are licensed and regulated by the state of Connecticut and the federal government;
- are responsible to insure that the wines and spirits brought in to the state by manufacturers and importers are sold and distributed only to licensed retailers (package stores and restaurant);
- collect in excess of \$34 million dollars in state excise taxes;
- assist the Department of Revenue Services in the collection of Sales and Use Taxes, in excess of \$78 Million Dollars annually;

Testimony of Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of CT
March 9, 2006

- provide in excess of 1,600 direct jobs to Connecticut residents; and
- contribute in excess of \$200 million dollars in direct and in direct benefits to the state's economy.

The members of the WSWC are committed to ensuring that the best possible safeguards to prevent the sale of beverage alcohol to minors are in place and adults of legal drinking age consume beverage alcohol responsibly, while at the same time providing an efficient method of distribution which provides access to a wide variety of quality wine and spirits from all over the world..

In Opposition to:
SB00501 (PRIORITY)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF WINE TO STATE RESIDENTS.

The WSWC opposes the continued dilution of the requirements for a farm winery. This proposal seeks to eliminate the requirement that farm wineries in fact be farms. In particular, the proposal permits "farm wineries" to purchase the required percentage of grapes required to be grown in Connecticut rather than grow them on winery premises. The WSWC objects on two grounds: first, from a public policy perspective, the change will denude the farm winery provision making it no different than the general class of manufacturer; and second, the provision will be disastrous from a constitutional perspective under the recent Supreme court decision in the Granholm case.

It is important to keep in mind that one who desires to produce wine in Connecticut with or without growing any grapes, either in Connecticut or elsewhere presently has the statutory authority to do so. Under C.G.S. § 30-16(a) a backer may obtain a license to produce wine in the state of Connecticut:

“(A) A manufacturer permit shall allow the manufacture of alcoholic liquor [wine, beer or spirits]¹ and the storage, bottling and wholesale distribution and sale of alcoholic liquor manufactured or bottled to permittees in this state and without the state as may be permitted by law

One who chooses, however, to apply for and obtain a "farm winery" permit is granted certain additional benefits not afforded to general manufacturers permits in exchange for the requirement that a percentage of the grapes be grown on the permit premises. These additional benefits, set forth in C.G.S. § 30-16, subsection (e), include: a) offering of tastings of free samples; b) retail sales for off premises consumption; c) retail sales for on premises consumption; d) sales of other farm wineries' wines; e) the sale and shipment to consumers with and without the state. These benefits were granted to farm wineries in order to help the wineries financially by providing a positive experience for one who visited a winery. In the 25 years that

¹ See C.G.S. § 30-1(3) "'Alcoholic liquor" or "alcoholic beverage" includes the four varieties of liquor defined in subdivisions (2), (5), (18) and (19) of this section (alcohol, beer, spirits and wine)..."

Testimony of Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of CT
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farm wineries have been permitted, only 18 wineries currently exist which employ no more than 50 full time employees and generate less than \$35,000.00 in excises taxes. One need not look far to conclude that the economic impact of farm wineries on the state's economy pales in comparison to that of the licensed wholesaler tier. Thus, in considering changes to the farm winery provisions, any benefits afforded to the farm wineries must be weighed against the harm to the wholesale tier.

The original purpose of the farm winery provisions was to preserve the agricultural qualities of the production, promote tourism and provide financial assistance to an artesian product. Over the years, however, several significant changes have diluted the original intent. Most significantly, on premise grape production requirements were decreased from 51% to 25%. (PA 04-111). This proposal will only serve to ensure that what was once a "farm" may now only be a section of a commercial building in a business park. Under the proposal, rolling hills of picturesque vineyards will be replaced by a juice fill tap on the side of commercial building.

Furthermore, the proposal presents serious constitutional problems. While the proposal states the farm winery must purchase a certain percentage of its grapes from Connecticut farms, such a restriction on the origin of production seems to clearly fly in the face of the Supreme Court's holding in Granholm v. Heald, 125 S.Ct 1885 (May 16, 2005).

While popular opinion interprets Granholm as legalizing the direct shipment of wine, such is not the case. In Granholm, the court held that: "Under the Commerce Clause, states may not enact laws that burden out-of-state producers or shippers simply to give a competitive advantage to in-state businesses." Id at 1895. Thus, a state could choose to entirely prohibit the direct shipment of wine so long as it did so for both instate and out of state producers.

This proposal seeks to do exactly what the Granholm decision prevents—that is treat differently products based solely on their origin of production. Thus, it is likely that should the proposal be enacted and a constitutional challenge ensue that the requirement that the specified percentage of grapes be grown in Connecticut will be struck down by the courts. The result will then be that a "farm" winery (which need no longer be a farm and need not purchase any Connecticut grapes) will be able to produce wine in Connecticut with all the benefits afforded to "farm wineries". Such consequences will eventually totally erode Connecticut's three tier system which ensures, and has for the last 73 years ensured, the responsible sale and distribution of beverage alcohol in the state.

In Support of:
HB05667

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR BRANDS
AND FEES AND PRICE POSTING AND NOTICE.**

Testimony of Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of CT
March 9, 2006

The WSWC supports this proposal which will allow wholesalers to provide monthly prices to retailers via the internet and extends the day for providing printed prices to the 27th day of the preceding month.

Understanding how prices are filed illustrates why such is the case. Wholesalers receive their prices from their suppliers in the beginning of the month. Both Suppliers and Wholesalers are required to file their prices with the State by the Twelfth day of the month. Wholesalers then have four days to amend their prices to meet the lowest price for the same brand and size which filed by a competitor. After this amending period has past the wholesalers then transmit their prices to The Connecticut Beverage Journal. The Connecticut Beverage Journal publishes a trade publication which sets forth all of the wine and spirits wholesale prices. The Connecticut Beverage Journal requires approximately eight days to finalize the layout of the publication, print the publication and ship the publication to the mail house. The postal service in turn takes approximately two to three days to deliver the publication. Thus, one can see that to require the furnishing of prices to retail permittees by the Twelfth of the month is physically impossible. Given the above schedule the earliest that prices can be delivered to retailers is the Twenty-seventh of the month. Attached is an alternative proposal which links the provision of prices to the close of the amending period and provides the prices have to be mailed by that date.

Additionally it is important to note for those retailers who wish to have the pricing available earlier, the Connecticut Beverage Journal offers a service (at the nominal cost of \$35.00 per year) which allows retailers to obtain the next months pricing immediately at the close of the amending period. Furthermore, wholesalers, prior to the close of the amending period have available to retailers, upon request price amendments which show those prices that will be changing from the current moth to the next month, subject to revision during the amending period.

In Support of:
HB05668

AN ACT BANNING ALCOHOL WITHOUT LIQUID MACHINES.

The WSWC supports the proposal to ban the sale and use of alcohol vaporization machines. The members of the WSWC do not see where such devices are necessary or desirable for the legitimate consumption and enjoyment of wine, beer or spirits.

001572

Connecticut Beverage Journal

PO Box 185159 Hamden CT 06518 203-288-3375

March 8, 2006

We are in support of:
HB051083 (Priority)
An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor Price Posting

HB5667

My name is Laurie Buick. I am the director of wholesaler services for the Connecticut Beverage Journal located in Hamden CT.

Since September, 1945 the Connecticut Beverage Journal has been the official publication for current prices as officially filed by the respective wholesalers with the Department of Protection Liquor Control Commission. The journal is mailed to all retail permittees as prescribed by 30-63(c) of the Connecticut Liquor Statutes and regulations.

The schedule for the postings are filed with and approved by the Liquor Control Commission by October of the previous year. Attached is the 2006 Schedule. This schedule takes into consideration file and amendment dates for the wholesalers, and printing and mailing for the retail permittees. This schedule also has to take into consideration state holidays and weekends.

Over 35,000 items are submitted and adjusted by the 12th of each month by each wholesaler with amended files electronically forwarded to our office four business days later. At that time the approximately 360 page price list section is sent to our printer with a four day turn around. These journals are now sent to the Wallingford Mailing and Distribution center where it is entered and mailed. This takes us to about the 26th of the month, or 6 business days after we receive the amended files.

We are currently testing a website for our wholesalers (and eventually retailers) giving them the ability to view the officially filed and amended prices. Our hope is in time this will help to ensure the legal schedules that are in effect. We have made it clear, that this in no way negates the current regulations that are required of our wholesalers in the State of Connecticut.

For 61 years, the Connecticut Beverage Journal has understood the importance of the retail permittees receiving their prices on or before the first of the month.

In addition to fulfilling the statutory obligation to furnish retailers with monthly prices in a printed format, the beverage journal supports the retail permittee by empowering them with a proven e-commerce technology. For a nominal fee of \$35 per year each retail permittee receives a secure user name and password which allows the permittee to go online twenty four hours a day with an ordering system. The retailer who chooses to obtain pricing via the internet can currently do so following the close of amending period. It also shows the monthly pricing of each wholesaler, and has a search engine for their finding items. Attached are screen samples from our subscriber website.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Buick
Director of Wholesaler Services
Connecticut Beverage Journal

Connecticut Beverage Journal 2006 Schedule

Book Month	File Date	Amendment Date	Connecticut Beverage Journal Enters Postal Facility
January	12/12/05	12/16/05	12/22/05
February	01/12/06	01/18/06	01/25/06
March	02/10/06	02/16/06	02/23/06
April	03/10/06	03/16/06	03/23/06
May	04/12/06	04/18/06	04/24/06
June	05/12/06	05/18/06	05/25/06
July	06/12/06	06/16/06	06/23/06
August	07/12/06	07/18/06	07/25/06
September	08/11/06	08/17/06	08/24/06
October	09/12/06	09/18/06	09/25/06
November	10/12/06	10/18/06	10/25/06
December	11/09/06	11/15/06	11/21/06
January	12/12/06	12/18/06	12/26/06

☑ This Month's Issue:



FREE mark up and profit chart
FREE cost per drink chart

Alcohol and Health Free Reprints/Poster

☑ Calendar:

Current: MARCH

Next: N/A

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

☑ Trade Events:

full listing ▶

Customer Service: 877 LINK BEV (546-5238)
Technical Support: 201 883-1492

Connecticut Beverage Journal online edition

Welcome back **Laurie Buick (CBJ0204)** at Beverage Publications

- ▶ Browse products from the Connecticut market.
- ▶ View wholesale pricing
- ▶ Place orders directly with your wholesaler
- ▶ Prepare and Print orders for your salesperson
- ▶ View Article Archives

View Products:

Search products by keyword:

Browse using our Advanced Search

Express Orders by Wholesaler Item Number

Reorder from your Portfolio of frequently ordered products

View Orders:

- Shopping Cart
- Previous Orders
- Order Status

View Archives:

Browse our Article Archives for hundreds of easily searchable pages of selling ideas, product and management information, recipes and recommendations.

New

What do you think?
 Give us feedback on the enhanced version of bevnetwork.com
 feedback@bevmedia.com



- 2/27/2006
- 2/3/2006
- 1/23/2006

Archives ▶



SHOPPING NETWORK

FOR ALL YOUR NON-BEVERAGE NEEDS

SEARCH
 Advanced Search

REFINE YOUR SEARCH:

Top Categories that match -chardonnay-

Top Wholesalers that match -chardonnay-

1,943 results found for -chardonnay-

First 150 search results; please refine your search

Display Results [1-50] of First 150
 1 2 3 [NEXT >>]

DESCRIPTION	CS \$ NET	BTL MIN	Suggested Resale	PURCHASE
3 Blind Moose Chardonnay				
750M / 12 CALIFORNIA STILL WINE 3 Blind Moose Chard				
Brescome Barton, Inc	FRONT: 106.92	9.99		
SKU: 23342	POST: 36.00			
Add to Portfolio <input type="checkbox"/>	BOTTLE: 7.99			QTY: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> CS <input checked="" type="radio"/> BTL <input type="button" value="Buy"/>
Abarbanel Chardonnay 2003				
750M / 12 KOSHER WINE - IMPORTED Abarbanel Chard 2003				
 Brescome Barton, Inc	FRONT: 130.92	16.49		
SKU: 04693	BOTTLE: 10.99			
Add to Portfolio <input type="checkbox"/>				QTY: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> CS <input checked="" type="radio"/> BTL <input type="button" value="Buy"/>
Abruzzi Chardonnay California Paso Robles 1998				
750ML / 12 ITALIAN STILL WINE Clos de la Reine Chardonnay Paso Robles Vt 00				
Abruzzi Imports	FRONT: 75.00	9.99		
SKU: 00999	POST: 7.00			
Add to Portfolio <input type="checkbox"/>	BOTTLE: 6.99			QTY: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> CS <input checked="" type="radio"/> BTL <input type="button" value="Buy"/>
Acacia Winery Chardonnay Carneros 2004				
750 / 12 CALIFORNIA STILL WINE Acacia Chardonnay Carneros				
 Slocum & Sons	FRONT: 191.92	23.99		
SKU: 201004	BOTTLE: 16.07			
Add to Portfolio <input type="checkbox"/>				QTY: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> CS <input checked="" type="radio"/> BTL <input type="button" value="Buy"/>
Acacia Winery Chardonnay Carneros 2004				
375 / 12 CALIFORNIA STILL WINE Acacia Chardonnay Carneros				
 Slocum & Sons	FRONT: 99.92	12.49		
SKU: 203004	BOTTLE: 8.41			
Add to Portfolio <input type="checkbox"/>				QTY: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> CS <input checked="" type="radio"/> BTL <input type="button" value="Buy"/>
Adelsheim Chardonnay 2004				
750 / 12 OREGON STILL WINE Adelsheim -"Ch" Chardonnay 2004				
Slocum & Sons	FRONT: 175.92	21.99		
SKU: 5003904	POST: 8.00			
Add to Portfolio <input type="checkbox"/>	BOTTLE: 14.74			QTY: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> CS <input checked="" type="radio"/> BTL <input type="button" value="Buy"/>
Alana Estate Chardonnay 2003				
750 / 12 NEW ZEALAND STILL WINE Alana Chardonnay				

0 Items in cart Total: \$0.00 Laurie Buick / Beverage Publications

Go to cart View Cart