

PA13-11

HB6212

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW
PART 3
580 - 891**

2013

SENATOR DOYLE: Next speaker is Peter Berdon. Mr. Berdon, yes, he is. Then Representative Terrie Wood, Tim O'Keefe, Representative James Maroney, Becky Bombero, Senator Dante Bartolomeo, Jay Hibbard, Senator Looney.

PETER BERDON: Thank you, Chairman Doyle, Chairman Baram. My name is Peter Berdon, and I am the executive director of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut. Wine and Spirits Wholesalers in Connecticut employ an excess of 1,200 folks here in this state and provide economic impact in an excess of \$434 million to the State of Connecticut.

I'm here to testify on a couple of bills. Primarily, though, I am here to testify in opposition to 6361, AN ACT CONCERNING FAIR ALCOHOL PRICING. I'm also here to testify in opposition to 5420, as well as 6212.

Moving back to 6361, there are three main reasons that the WSWC's opposed to 6361. First, we believe that the proposals unlikely to realize any financial gains to the state. Connecticut retail prices -- the second, Connecticut retail prices are, in fact, competitive with surrounding states; and thirdly, we believe that additional time is required to evaluate the impact of Sunday sales and the other changes that were authorized by Public Act 12-17.

Let me speak primarily to the first two issues so that I raised, that is, is that the financial gain is unlikely to the state, as well as the fact that Connecticut retail prices, we believe, are competitive already with surrounding states.

First off, if one examines the -- the fiscal note and the proposed increases in tax revenue, based upon our estimates, we believe that it represents

ART DESISTO: Good afternoon, Senator Doyle,
Representative Baram, members of the committee.
My name is Arthur DeSisto. I have the pleasure
of being a wine manager for Total Wine & More in
Norwalk.

HB 6210 HB 6212
HB 6211 HB 6361

I'm here today to offer testimony and support
with four bills on your agenda today. Total Wine
& More, is owned and operated by two brothers
David and Robert Trone. We believe in ensuring
the best price, best selection for our customers.
We opened our first Connecticut location just
three months ago. We are excited about this. We
strive to be the best price leader for our
customers in every market we serve.

Our Norwalk store is part of the Total Wine &
More family that includes 89 stores in 15 states.
We've become active in communities we serve and
believe in investing in these communities. Last
year, we donated over 3 million worth of in-kind
goods to more than 2,000 organizations
nationwide. This past December we brought 50
jobs to the state of Connecticut and over 75
percent of those jobs are with benefits. Our
employees receive 150 hours of training before
hitting the floor and serving the customers. We
have an educated workforce whose main focus is
customer choice, best price, and highest
selection.

Total Wine & More, Norwalk store is currently
offering 8,000 wines, 3,000 spirits, and 2500
beers, including something we take great pride,
locally produced Connecticut products. We
showcase Connecticut's best offerings and market
Connecticut's home products unlike any other
store.

All four of the bills we are testifying on will
help our business continue to grow. As now we've
prohibit -- are handicapped from serving the

customers in the best possible manner. Specifically on Bill HB 6210, AN ACT OF ALLOWING PACKAGE STORES TO SELL CIGARS. Connecticut is home to the finest shade grown tobacco in the world and several of the greatest cigar wrapping companies, such as Enfield's Jarmoc Tobacco and Brown's Harvest in Windsor. The Brown family has been growing Tobacco in Windsor, Connecticut, since 1874. We want to offer the customers the best cigar products possible. We were surprised to learn that we cannot sell and promote local Connecticut businesses in our own state in our store.

In HB 6211, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFERING OF TASTINGS AND DISTILLED SPIRITS; and Act HB 6212; AN ACT CONCERNING A WINE TASTINGS IN PACKAGE STORES, as for these two separate possible tasting bills, one on wine and one and spirits. We feel that the tasting of these classes of beverages, alcohol, beer, wine, and spirits should not be unlimited. We are currently limited to the number of bottles you can open at one time and this severally inhibits our customer services in what we're founded on.

As far as Act HB 6361, AN ACT THAT CONCERNS FAIR ALCOHOL PRICING, lastly Connecticut is the only state with minimum pricing system. Currently the state sets the lowest price that can be charged for a single bottle of alcohol regardless if is bought by single bottle or case. Connecticut heavily regulates our industry to the point that it restricts and hampers natural competition. It is competition that would bring the prices and, therefore, help the consumer. We all know many Connecticut residents are heading to state borders to buy alcohol at lower price. Estimates we've heard today many times that \$2.6 million in taxes. It is the customers who should be leading this charge.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today in support of proposals that will help Connecticut become more competitive with New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts's.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any questions from the committee?

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

With respect to your testimony, as it stands about wine tastings, by opening up the numbers of bottles that you're allowed to have open at one time, are you looking to change -- I mean wouldn't that in fact change the amount of wine that you could give per customer?

HB6212

ART DESISTO: Not at all. With having four open at one time to all three classes really limits what he or she can try prior to purchasing. So it's an opportunity that we would like to be able to have the tastings going on throughout our location and not be limited to only have two wines, one beer and one spirit at one time.

REP. CARTER: Right, but where I'm getting at is my understanding -- I could be wrong I have to research this -- that currently you can have four bottles open at a time. Correct?

ART DESISTO: Correct.

REP. CARTER: And you're allowed to give so many ounces per bottle to a customer.

ART DESISTO: Correct.

REP. CARTER: So now if we have ten bottles open, you can give so many ounces, again, per bottle -- so

the person will having more liquor than they did before.

See what I mean?

ART DESISTO: It's definitely going to be regulated at the store. I mean we are not going to open and allow anybody to have, you know, 12 different varietals of beer and two spirits. We serve it in a small glass. We give just a taste, and there is not enough to have somebody become impaired.

REP. CARTER: So what would be your take then if we were to change the legislation and open it up that you'd have more bottles available. But we still set a limit on how much alcohol that somebody would consume at the premises.

ART DESISTO: Absolutely. We would have no issues with that. We want to be able to serve our customers and give them the selection that we offer.

REP. CARTER: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE Thank you.

Any further questions from the committee?

Seeing none, thank you very much.

ART DESISTO: Thank you folks.

SENATOR DOYLE: Next speaker is Chuck Bowe, is Mr. Bowe here?

Yes, he is.

Mike Scalise, David Leon, Larry Cass, Bill Boucher, Brian Langer, Susan Giacalone, Rick Morneau, Ken Braga.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW
PART 4
892 - 1204**

2013

P 13
PS 15 LN 10

Arthur DeSisto
Total Wine & More
Testimony for General Law Committee
February 26 2013 Public Hearing

Good Afternoon, Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the Committee. My name is Arthur DeSisto and I have the pleasure of being the wine manager at Total Wine & More in Norwalk. I am here today to offer testimony in support of four bills on your agenda today:

- **HB 6210**: An act allowing package stores to sell cigars.
- **HB 6211**: An act concerning the offering and tasting of distilled spirits
- **HB 6212**: An act concerning wine tasting at package stores
- **HB 6361**: An act concerning fair alcohol pricing

Total Wine & More is owned and operated by two brothers, David and Robert Trone, who believe in ensuring the best price and best selection for our customers. We opened our first Connecticut location just 3 months ago. We are excited about our first Connecticut store. We strive to be the price leader for our customers in every market we serve. Our Norwalk Store is part of the Total Wine family that includes 89 stores in 15 states. We become active in the communities we serve and we believe in investing in these communities. Last year, we donated over 3 million worth of in-kind goods to more than 2,000 organizations nationwide.

When we opened this past December, we brought more than 50 jobs to the state of Connecticut; and over 75 percent of these jobs are full-time with benefits. Our employees receive over 150 hours of training. We have an educated workforce whose main focus is customer choice, best price and highest selection.

Total Wine & More's Norwalk store currently offers more than 8,000 wines, 3,000 spirits and 2, 500 beers, including something we take great pride in: locally produced *Connecticut* products. We showcase Connecticut's best offerings and market Connecticut's home products unlike any other store.

All four of the bills we are testifying on will help our business continue to grow. As of now, we are prohibited and handicapped from serving our customers in the best possible manner.

On the specific bills:

- **HB 6210: An act allowing package stores to sell cigars**

Connecticut is home to the finest shade grown tobacco in the world and several of the greatest cigar wrapper companies; such as Enfield's Jarmoc tobacco and Brown's Harvest in Windsor. The Brown family has been growing tobacco in Windsor, Connecticut since 1874. We want to offer our customers the best cigar products possible. We were surprised to learn that we could not sell and promote a local Connecticut business in our own state and stores.

- **HB 6211: An act concerning the offering and tasting of distilled spirits**
- **HB 6212: An act concerning wine tasting at package stores**

As for the two separate proposed tasting bills, one for wine and one for spirits, we feel that the tastings of all three classes of beverage alcohol: beer, wine and spirits-should be unlimited. We are currently limited to the number of bottles that can be open at one time. We can open only four bottles at one time across all three beverage classes. Limiting a tasting to only four open bottles severely restricts the customer's ability to taste what he or she wants.

We are aware that other stores already stretch the number of bottles for a tasting, realizing how impractical the four bottle limit is. We prefer to work through the correct legislative process to correct this archaic law.

If there are concerns over consumption issues, there shouldn't be-because this is a tasting, not a drinking opportunity. We address this fear by the size of the tastings and the aggregate amount that the taster may be provided.

- **HB 6361: An act concerning fair alcohol pricing**

Lastly, Connecticut is the only state in the country with a minimum pricing system. Currently, the state sets the lowest price that can be charged for a single bottle of alcohol, regardless if it is bought as a single bottle or a case.

The Connecticut Small Brand Council Inc.



To preserve, encourage and expand a vast and affordable wine, beer and spirits product selection for Connecticut consumers in the marketplace while also growing jobs.

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Executive Director
Josh D. Hughes Esq
General Counsel
David Rose Esq.

The Connecticut Small Brand Council (CSBC) is a 501(c)(6) association that fosters a stronger relationship within the existing three tiered system of companies selling smaller brand products and with the consumer. CSBC has around thirty members including small manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of alcohol that want to expand the already vast selection of affordable wine, beer and spirit products in Connecticut while also increasing the jobs that these small businesses provide to the framework of the Connecticut economy. The CSBC is an advocate for those companies that create the product, ship it and the Connecticut consumer that buys it.

We are in **support of HB6211 THE OFFERING AND TASTING OF DISTILLED SPIRITS**. Currently beer and wine producers can offer tastings after tours of their facilities and this bill also offers it to distillers in CT, a fast growing segment of the alcohol industry in CT. Currently CSBC members Onyx in East Hartford, Westford Hill Distillers in Ashford and Krā-zē vodka in Montville would all benefit. We are also in **support of HB6212 WINE TASTING AT PACKAGE STORES** which would increase the number of allowable wines offered at tastings to an increased limit but we would suggest maintaining some limitation on a maximum number.

We are in **opposition to HB 6361 AN ACT CONCERNING FAIR ALCOHOL PRICING**. Repealing single bottle pricing will destroy the product selection available today in the market. Package stores will no longer buy individual bottles of boutique smaller market share products the market currently supports, if there is no incentive to buy just a few bottles instead of a case. Most small to medium sized stores average 15% to 20% of their purchases by the bottle and not by the case. As a result, the dominant large market share national brand products will displace those other products and those big chain box retailers will sell for cost which is a loss that they can sustain but no one else can compete against. Add in that big-box chain stores, the growing dominant factor in the market, and there will be a reduction in the variety of products they carry from the small wineries, distillers and craft brewers, and there will be an increase in prices to the consumer ultimately when they gain more market share. Big-box and chain stores will dismantle the pricing of these smaller brand products and make it incredibly difficult for these small manufacturers/wineries/brewers to be competitive in CT and those manufacturers will no longer sell their product here. Large market share national brand products will squeeze out shelf space with case displays and there will be bigger volume, long term purchases which is bad for variety, the consumer and small brand manufactures. Big box chain stores will argue that they sell more products than other retailers, but the real question is why they don't carry more of a smaller brand inventory, and why the smaller brand manufacturers and wholesalers cannot sustain a relationship with these retailers. Additionally, national big box chains have the finances to have the large manufacturers create what are called private product labels



February 25, 2013

Brad Hittle
Two Roads Brewing Company
Written Testimony in support of
HB 6212: An act concerning wine tasting at package stores

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the Committee My name is Brad Hittle and I am the CEO of the Two Roads Brewing Company located at the former U.S. Baird factory at 1700 Stratford Avenue in Stratford. Some look at the idle, old manufacturing buildings that dot the landscape throughout New England and see blight. When we saw the proud old "U.S. Baird Building", we saw a beautiful symbol of America's past manufacturing might, and the opportunity to revitalize a great piece of history! Two Roads Brewing Co. opened last December and now has a large tasting room where customers sample our beers as well as enough space for events and private parties.

I cannot comment on the proposed tasting legislation before you today without first thanking you for last year's legislation that made our tasting room concept a reality. Prior to passage of the Sunday liquor sales law, breweries were not allowed to sell beer by the pint and were only allowed to offer samples--that change in Connecticut law made our brewery possible.

We, like so many craft breweries in Connecticut, are building a business and employing many people in our state. We are off to a great start with 19 employees so far and we hope to bring 70 jobs to Stratford in the coming years.

The proposed tasting legislation is an important measure that will allow Two Roads and other Connecticut Craft Breweries to market their beer in package stores around the state and expose our Connecticut customers to the superior taste of our products. This legislation will help to grow our businesses, and our payrolls.

- **HB 6212: An act concerning wine tasting at package stores**

While the proposed bill only addresses wine, we would ask you to widen its reach to all tastings. The current regulations apply to all tasting and they are not separated by type of product. We believe the number of tastings should be unlimited and only constrained by the space, staff and supply of a given retail outlet. With the growing number of craft breweries in Connecticut it is important that a package store has the opportunity to provide tastings of all types of beers. If these tastings continue to be limited to only four open bottles at a time, a store can never have a "Connecticut Craft Brew Tasting" or a "Connecticut Wine Tasting" because the store would be forced to pick winners and losers by virtue of this four bottle limit.

Even though I think beer is the best product that package stores sell, I understand that others love wine and yet others like distilled spirits. By limiting tastings to just four open bottles at one time deprives the Connecticut consumer the ability to sample before they buy.

Thank you for your past support of our industry and I hope you will again provide us with the tools to grow Connecticut's economy

BRAD HITTLE



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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

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Sergeant, thank you very much for your service and by the -- by the breadth of the applause that you're hearing today this is something that's truly honored this entire Chamber is standing in -- in your honor, so I want to thank you for your service, sir.

Thank you very much.

Chamber will stand at ease for just a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the House please come back to order?

Will the Clerk -- Clerk please call Calendar Number 135.

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 135, on page number eight, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee of General Law, Substitute House Bill 6212, AN ACT CONCERNING WINE TASTING AT PACKAGE STORES.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good morning, sir.

REP. BARAM (15th):

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill requires the Consumer Protection Commissioner to amend existing regulations to increase the minimum number of allowable open wine bottles for package store tastings from four to ten. This would be effective upon passage and the purpose is to recognize that four bottles is a little too restrictive and by having ten bottles it will promote more patronage and also allow us to offer marketing of our own home grown local wines. There is no fiscal impact to this bill. It was passed unanimously by General Law.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment LCO 5597. I would ask that the Clerk call this amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call LCO 5597 the
issue will be granted House Amendment A.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 135, file number 172, House Bill 6212,
LCO 59 -- 597, AN ACT -- Amendment --

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Offered by.

THE CLERK:

-- offered by Representative Baram of the 15th.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to
summarize the amendment. Is there objection? Observe
no. Is there objection?

Please -- hearing none, Representative Baram, you
may proceed.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment merely implements this legislation
by statutory directive rather than by regulation and
makes it effective immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I would move adoption of the amendment
and passage of the bill as amended.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question on the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on the amendment? Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Carter of the 2nd District.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Good morning. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good morning, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I would like to let everybody know in the Chamber this is a friendly amendment. In fact, this is a work of bi-partisanship, so I move that -- or I -- excuse me -- I urge my colleagues vote for it.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

Representative Alberts of the 50th.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I may, a question to proponent of the amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram, please prepare yourself.

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to make sure that I understand the language change here, which I believe is in lines 18 through 20. The reference to ten uncorked bottles so that at any given time in -- in the facility that is contemplated there -- there can no more than ten bottles?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

That is correct. The maximum number of open bottles can be only ten.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And this language that's before us does not contemplate a minimum in terms of the sampling size does it?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

There's no change in the sampling size.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the proponent.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Miner of the 66th.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I might just a couple of questions through you
to the proponent of the bill please?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The gentleman when he brought the amendment out I
think indicated that this would provide liquor stores

an opportunity to allow their patrons to taste local wines and I wanted to be I guess sure that this wasn't limited to local wines only, that in fact, they would be able to taste wines produced outside the Connecticut -- state of Connecticut as well.

Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I was just editorializing that we have many fine local wines, but this applies to all wines.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would -- I would agree with the gentleman's editorial. And the last question that I had once was that I think wineries on occasion charge for a glass of wine as part of this taste tasting. If the gentleman knows would that still apply here if in fact it is the case that they would be able to charge for that glass of wine?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 17, 2013

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

This only applies to package store wine tasting and if -- if the statute allows for a charge, the package store may charge for it and if they offer it free they can do that as well.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the gentleman for his answer.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment before us? Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay.

The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Machine will be open. Clerk will -- members take your seat and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Please return to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6212, as amended

Total Number Voting 133

Necessary for Passage 67

Those voting Yea 133

Those voting Nay 0

Absent and not voting 18

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended is adopted.

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege?

Representative Noujaim of the 74th.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, sir.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Mr. Speaker, I rise for a point of personal privilege and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce two dear friends of mine. They are from West Chester County. They live in Katonah. Originally they are from Poland, but they immigrated to this country and Magda works with my daughter Rebecca in New York City and her husband Alaks is also in New York City.

They are visiting us here at the Chamber for the first time and I would like to ask my colleagues to rise and give a big round of applause coming in from New York to Magna and Alak Dzixdzic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 21, Calendar 424, Substitute for House Bill Number 6212, AN ACT CONCERNING WINE TASTING AT PACKAGE STORES. It's amended by House Amendment Schedule "A," favorable report of the Committee on General Law.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening. Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Good evening, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on passage.

Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes, thank you, Madam President.

This bill deals with -- currently package stores permittees can host alcohol tasting, wine tastings, in their package stores. This is a recent -- I think we did it a few years ago. This is a simply -- a minor part -- a minor correction or a change to it.

Under current law, the package store permittees can open four bottles of liquor, wine or beer at a time. What this bill permits -- it's a House bill -- it permits the package stores to open 10 -- no more than 10 uncorked bottles of wine at any time. So basically, it expands the ability of a package store to open wine at a tasting, but it does not change the amount of wine that a person may drink. It still remains for wine, one ounce. And I urge the Chamber to support the bill.

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Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I also rise to support the bill. This is a pro-business bill. Imagine if we started having wine education classes at your package store and -- and the crowds are just growing and growing and you're limited to only having four bottles opened at a time so it's -- could be, you know, however long it takes to -- to go through the whole list so it's up to the package store. If they want to open up more bottles to give the same amount of wine that you're only allowed to give, let's let them do that. And this -- that's what this bill does. It lets them go from four bottles to ten bottles. It doesn't expand any hours of operation. It can only be done during the hours of operation that a normal package store is allowed to operate.

So I urge the Chamber's adoption.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

If not -- Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOLYE:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

If there's no objection, I'd move this to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered, sir.

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So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Calendar page 48, Calendar 309, Senate Bill Number 899, Madam President, move to place this item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And Madam President, on Calendar page 50, Calendar 405, Senate Bill Number 848, Madam President, move to refer this item to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would now read the items on the first Consent Calendar and then if we might proceed to a vote on that first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 496, House Joint Resolution Number 98; Calendar 497, House Joint Resolution Number 99.

On page 2, Calendar 498, House Joint Resolution Number 100; Calendar 499, House Joint Resolution Number 101;

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also on page 2, Calendar 500, House Joint Resolution
Number 102.

On page 4, Calendar 119, Senate Bill 564.

On page 5, Calendar 155, Senate Bill 231.

On page 6, Calendar 169, Senate Bill 881; and Calendar
188, Senate Bill 1029.

On page 7, Calendar 192, Senate Bill 835.

On page 12, Calendar 284, Senate Bill 964.

Page 16, Calendar 353, House Bill 6481.

On page 18, Calendar 376, Senate Bill 878; Calendar
372, Senate Bill 977.

On page 19, Calendar 387, Senate Bill 386; and
Calendar 392, Senate Bill 366.

On page 20, Calendar 396, Senate Bill 991; and
Calendar 413, Senate Bill 1049.

On page 21, Calendar for 424, House Bill 6212.

And on page 25, Calendar 463, House Bill 6405.

THE CHAIR:

Those are all the bills on the Calendar.

At this point, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll
call vote of the first Consent Calendar of the day and
the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

~~Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.~~
Voting the first Consent Calendar of the day.
Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the chamber.

(Senator Coleman of the 2nd in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

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Would members please check the board to see that your vote has been properly recorded? If all members have voted and all votes have been properly recorded, the machine will be closed.

And would the Clerk please take and announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar of the day.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

If we might stand at ease for -- for just a moment.
Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

The Chamber please stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: