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**CT: CT Legislature Green Lights Pro-craft Beer Bill**

*The bill awaits the signature of Gov. Ned Lamont.*

Greater Hartford - Patch
By News Desk, News Partner
June 2, 2019

From the Connecticut Brewers Guild: The Connecticut House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (140-5) in favor of pro-jobs, pro-craft beer bill (S.B. 647), which increases the amount of craft beer that a brewery can sell directly to a consumer for off-premise consumption from nine liters to nine gallons.

The Connecticut State Senate passed the bill with overwhelming support on Thursday, May 30, by a vote of 35-1.

"Passage of this bill is great news for brewers, small business owners, and consumers statewide," said Phil Pappas, executive director of the Connecticut Brewers Guild. "It represents the most significant updates to craft beer and alcohol laws since the Prohibition-era."

Here's what the bill does for our state's job-creating craft beer industry:

- Increases the amount of craft beer that can be sold on-premise for off-premise consumption: Currently, Connecticut craft breweries can sell up to nine liters (approximately 1 case of 12-ounce cans) to an individual over 21 years of age within 24 hours. If this bill is passed by both chambers and signed into law by the governor, the limit will increase to nine gallons (approximately 4 cases of 12-ounce cans).

- Updates to the permitting structure: Consolidates nine manufacturer permits into 3, including (a) limiting manufacturer permittees to producing spirits; (b) combining four beer permits into one; and (c) creating a new wine, cider, and mead permit similar to a farm winery permittee.

- Gives wineries, cideries, and distilleries the ability to sell CT craft beer: The bill creates a Connecticut Craft Cafe permit under which all manufacturing permit holders will have the ability to sell all other types of alcohol manufactured in the state.

- Allows craft breweries to manufacture wine, cider, and distilled spirits: The bill allows breweries, along with wineries, cideries, and distilleries the ability to hold multiple manufacturing permits, granting them the ability to make beer, wine, cider, spirits and mead all under one roof.

"We're thankful to all of our industry partners who have worked so hard on this bill, and to lawmakers like you who have been so generous with your time, energy, commitment, and dedication to making Connecticut better for small businesses," said Pappas.

Connecticut's local, independent, job-creating craft beer industry is booming, resulting in a nearly 750 million dollar economic impact annually and more than 4,600 part-time and full-time jobs statewide.

The next step for the bill is to be signed into law by Governor Ned Lamont.

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**LA: Home delivery of liquor close to becoming law**

The Advocate
By Mark Ballard
June 2, 2019

Very soon adults can start receiving adult beverages delivered directly to their homes under legislation that is close to becoming law.

Wine and beer could be brought along with restaurant meals under legislation the state Senate approved Sunday night. It’s one legislative step away from final approval.
Then about three hours later, the House gave the final legislative go ahead for having the hard stuff delivered to the doorstep.

House Bill 508 sets up the rules and standards for Class B liquor retailers to bring their factory-sealed beverages to residences during their authorized store hours. Among the many rules, stores can’t deliver to a campus address and the delivery person must verify the age of the recipient. The legislation now goes to the governor.

House Bill 349 authorizes the Commissioner of Alcohol & Tobacco Control to issue permits for the delivery of low alcohol content beverages by restaurants, grocery stores, package houses, and third parties. Permits will cost $250 for restaurants, package houses, and grocery stores that deliver direct and $500 for third parties hired to do the delivery.

The Senate approved HB349 on a vote of 26-8. The measure returns to the House for concurrence on amendments added by the upper chamber.

Most of the debate in the Senate about HB349 was about allowing third party contractors to do the deliveries. The legislation favored permanent employees, those who receive W-2 forms that report earning to the Internal Revenue Service, over temporary employees, those who receive an IRA Form 1099 to report their pay.

The reason is to have a company to sue if something goes wrong, like the delivery person doesn’t check identification and delivers a bottle of vodka to teenagers.

“An employee has a clear line of liability,” said Sen. JP Morrell, a New Orleans Democrat and lawyer. Many companies prefer temporary employees because they protect the restaurant or store from being held responsible, he added.

W-2 employees delivering alcohol to homes have to meet the same licensing and training standards as a bartender under the legislation.

“It gives us the ability to have e-commerce in this state and it will be very well regulated,” Sen. Dan “Blade” Morrish, R-Jennings, said of the House-passed legislation he handled in the Senate.

House Bill 349 picked up a last-minute hitchhiker in the form an amendment that would keep Winn-Dixie from laying off about 20 warehouse employees in Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards’ old Tangipahoa Parish House district.

Louisiana allows only approved distributors to deliver alcoholic beverages directly to retailers. Winn-Dixie’s warehouse was set up before the rule and the law allowed Winn-Dixie warehouse to deliver liquor to Winn-Dixie grocery stores.

All other grocery stores must receive their alcohol for retail sale directly from distributors. Winn-Dixie then lost its special consideration. The grocery store chain asked for two more years in order to rearrange its business plan. Without the additional time, Winn-Dixie would have to shut down that portion of the warehouse and lay off the 20 employees who work there in September.

A separate bill to accomplish the two-year extension was defeated in House committee earlier this year. The legislation now returns to the House to consider the Winn-Dixie and other amendments added on the Senate side.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canada: NB Liquor plans to stop distributing plastic bags

CBC
June 2, 2019

NB Liquor plans to stop distributing plastic bags to its customers, spokesperson Mark Barbour confirmed.

The Crown corporation hasn't set a timeline for the switch, Barbour said in an interview with Radio-Canada.
Right now the company is exploring its options. Barbour said paper or reusable bags are being considered.

Newfoundland and Labrador has announced a ban on plastic bags. Prince Edward Island will prohibit businesses from providing plastic bags to customers at the checkout starting next month.

The Moncton area is also considering a ban, with the mayor of Dieppe saying his region is not prepared to wait for the province to act. He hopes his city, along with Moncton and Riverview, will have bylaws ready to take effect July 1, 2020.

**Australia: ACCC warns over 'harmful' practices in wine industry**

The Sydney Morning Herald
By Darren Gray
June 3, 2019

Wine growers in parts of Australia have a "fear of retribution" if they speak out about contracts with winemakers, the competition watchdog has warned in a new report that exposes a series of problems in the industry.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), which surveyed 262 wine grape growers and held a series of meetings as part of its inquiry, said growers "were frequently reluctant to raise concerns with the ACCC" because of concerns about how winemakers would respond.

"This points very strongly to a market which is not functioning well," the ACCC said.

The ACCC identified a number of "harmful market practices" in the industry which it said were limiting its potential to grow. The report focused on the three Australian areas considered warm climate production regions, the Riverina in NSW; Riverland in South Australia; and Murray Valley in the Murray Darling area. These areas account for about two-thirds of Australia's wine production by volume.

Late payments to wine growers, which in some cases were made nine months after the fruit was delivered, and a lack of transparency over how grapes were priced and quality tested were also major concerns.

A lack of competition between winemakers buying grapes, an imbalance in supply agreements meaning that growers wore too much risk, and the inability of growers to negotiate effectively with winemakers were other problems identified.

This points very strongly to a market which is not functioning well.

**Australian Competition and Consumer Commission**

"The wine grape industry is characterised by imbalances in bargaining power between major buyers (winemakers) and growers. The industry is also significantly exposed to export markets, in which market conditions and prices can change significantly from year-to-year," the report said.

"We found that winemakers do not publicise the prices they pay to growers and often have confidentiality terms to prevent growers from disclosing their indicative and final prices to other growers," ACCC deputy chair Mick Keogh said.

"Meanwhile, various supply arrangements appear to favour incumbent buyers of bulk wine grapes, such as exclusive supply clauses, automatic and long-term contract extensions, and difficult contract termination obligations on growers."

Mr Keogh said the ACCC received strong responses to its survey of growers, with "very standardised and very common concerns" raised. "Quite a number of factors indicated to us that the problems are reasonably widespread, and not just of concern to individuals."

Australian Grape and Wine, an industry lobby group representing both winemakers and grape growers, welcomed the report.
Speaking to The Age and Sydney Morning Herald from China, the group's chief executive Tony Battaglene said the report identified some areas that needed to be improved, including on transparency of pricing, but on some points he strongly disagreed with the ACCC's view.

"They seemed to criticise long-term supply contracts, (but) growers like long-term supply contracts. We're an agricultural industry, things fluctuate," he said.

 Asked about the ACCC comments about growers fearing "retribution" from winemakers if they raised concerns with the ACCC, Mr Battaglene said the concerns sounded historic, but added that if there was such behaviour it should be stamped out.

"I won't defend any sort of bad professional behaviour, and the industry won't either. So if it is (happening) let's test it and come up with appropriate responses. That should be an easy one to respond to," he said.

The vast majority of grapes produced in Australia's warm climate regions are "used for commercial, low-value wine destined for export markets," the ACCC report said, adding that "Australian winemakers competing in global markets are price-takers".

INDUSTRY NEWS

Merlot versus marijuana: Wine Country feuds over measure to grow pot

San Francisco Chronicle
By Esther Mobley and Melia Russell
June 3, 2019

The Napa Valley has become synonymous with wine, as grapevines cover the flatlands and creep up the hillsides. Now some entrepreneurs hope a new crop will take root: marijuana.

Last week, a group called the Napa Valley Cannabis Association submitted what they believe are enough signatures to put the question of cannabis cultivation on the March 2020 ballot. Although California legalized marijuana in 2016, Napa — perhaps wary of threatening its lucrative monoculture — has banned pot farming.

That could change, if the cannabis backers, who include some major names in wine, have their way.

“I don’t want to damage the Napa brand for grapes,” said Erik Sklar, a St. Helena resident who grows a small amount of cannabis on a Lake County farm and is a founding member of the cannabis group. “But I’m convinced, and so are a lot of grape growers, that cannabis and grapes can co-exist and it will be better for Napa County.”

Opponents say there isn’t room for another cash crop. Grapes represent 99 percent of the county’s agricultural revenue, versus 65 percent in Sonoma, another wine-growing region that’s been far friendlier toward crop growers. The opponents fear that cannabis would contaminate vineyards, strain an already-tight farm labor force and detract from wine sales. The Napa County Farm Bureau voted in May to oppose the initiative, which was then in the signature-gathering phase.

“Cannabis would radically change the mission and vision of the Napa Valley,” said Karen MacNeil, a St. Helena resident and wine consultant who opposes the initiative. “Do we think that Bordeaux would start planting cannabis? No. They’ve worked too hard to become the place they are.”

The cannabis group gathered 8,240 signatures in favor of the initiative, more than the 5,635 needed to qualify. If cleared by the county’s election office, the measure would go to the Napa County Board of Supervisors for review. Those officials would be required to put it on the ballot unless they pass a version themselves.

In the past, the supervisors have approached marijuana cautiously. They placed a temporary ban on commercial cultivation soon after the state legalized pot, and they renewed it last year. As in the rest of the state, it’s legal for residents to grow up to six cannabis plants for personal use.
The measure would allow dispensaries to open in unincorporated areas of the county (only one exists countywide, in the city of Napa). It would also permit pot delivery services, distributors and manufacturers to operate in an industrial zone near the Napa Airport.

Would Napa’s wine-growing elite abandon their vineyards for pot plantations? The same conditions that make Napa an ideal place for viticulture — a long growing season with cool nights — also favor cannabis. The association wants to impose standards on any cannabis labeled “Napa Valley,” a quality-assurance measure that borrows from wine’s appellation system.

While Napa commands the highest prices for grapes in the state, potential revenues from cannabis far exceed them. An acre of marijuana grown outdoors can yield roughly $1.9 million of dry cannabis buds, leaves and other usable plant material, according to calculations off data from Cannabis Benchmarks, which tracks the industry, and from the Rand Drug Policy Research Center. Meanwhile, Sklar estimates that an acre of Napa Cabernet Sauvignon grapes can fetch about $55,000.

Importantly, the initiative would limit marijuana growing to one acre per business, whereas some vineyards are hundreds of acres.

And growing cannabis has some costs that don’t apply to vineyards, including security, legal fees, and state and local taxes on growing and selling cannabis, according to Robert Eyler, an economics professor at Sonoma State University.

There isn’t a lot of space to grow pot in Napa. The valley floor has long been planted to capacity. Using the hillsides, which are subject to strict environmental regulation, poses its own challenges.

“Pretty much all of the available land has been planted,” MacNeil said. “So that makes me think: Well, are we looking at a situation where 30 years from now, vineyards would be taken out to grow weed?”

Cannabis and grapes are both harvested in the fall, potentially draining already-scarce farm labor. Picking cannabis is often easier physically than the backbreaking work of picking grapes — and might pay better, according to Eyler.

“I think the wine industry and grape growing already competes with (cannabis) to a certain extent,” said Don Munk, vineyard director for Hall Wines in St. Helena. “But legalizing it and making it more widespread would definitely impact the labor supply.”

The proposed initiative would legalize growing commercial cannabis (but not hemp) in areas of Napa County zoned as Agricultural Watershed and Agricultural Preserve — land already determined to be best suited to agriculture — but not on the same lot as a winery. Setbacks of 500 feet for homes and 1,000 feet for schools and parks would be required. The initiative seeks to reduce environmental harms from chemicals or other farming practices.

“Let’s mitigate any guerilla farming that’s going on, and regulate it properly so that there are no pesticides being used to strip a field, and no rogue farmers desiccating wilderness in a way that impacts streams and water,” said Robert Mondavi Jr., president of Folio Wine Partners and a backer of the measure.

A handful of illegal grow operations in the county have been discovered and uprooted by law enforcement in recent years. “One year we might turn out 100,000 plants and the next we may pull out only 5,000 total,” said Lt. Rick Greenberg in the special investigations bureau of the county sheriff’s office. “It’s a rollercoaster.”

The initiative would tax cannabis growers, to the order of $1 to $2 per square foot. Other types of cannabis-related businesses in the county (like shops) would have to pay an annual tax of 3.5 percent of gross receipts.

In the 2016 election, nearly two-thirds of Napa County voters supported marijuana legalization. Backers of the pro-pot ballot measure say they’ve waited 2½ years after state legalization for the Board of Supervisors to regulate commercial cultivation, before drafting a ballot measure themselves. Supervisor Diane Dillon said the legal cannabis market is not a priority, since the board is grappling with housing issues, fire recovery and construction of a $128 million jail.
Small Craft Breweries Should Focus on Taste to Win Customers, Survey Shows

Small Business Trends
By Michael Guta
June 2, 2019

The taste of good quality craft beer is uniquely different depending on the brewer. And these varied tastes are what connoisseurs of craft beer search for. Once they find their brew of choice, customers become evangelists trying to convert their friends and family.

A new survey by C+R Research says taste is the number one factor drinkers look for in a craft beer. This was the case for more than 90% of the respondents in its survey. Not only that, 91% say they prefer it to big brand beers, and 86% are willing to pay more for their craft beer of choice.

If you are a small business owner in the food and beverage segment, this is all good news. With the right craft beers on tap, you can get more people to come in your restaurant or pub. And with so many brewers locally and across the country, you won’t run out of choice any time soon.

C+R Research carried out its survey to find out just what exactly is driving the growth of the craft beer industry. Using Amazon’s Mechanical Turk online platform, C+R polled 2,000 Americans across the country from March 11-22 of 2019. Men and women ranging in age from 21 to 70 years old took part in the survey.

What Craft Beer Drinkers Look for in Their Drink

As mentioned earlier, taste is the number one choice. This was followed by more than 60% of respondents who said style (stout, IPA, etc.).

The third factor, which is price, shows this demographic is willing to pay more for the taste and style of craft beer they want. As a matter of fact the survey specifically asked, “Does price influence whether you purchase craft beer? And 76% said no, with only 24% responding yes.

This bodes well for small businesses who want to carry craft beers in their pubs or restaurants. With the right variety of craft beers, you can attract a wide range of customers willing to pay more.

After the price, drinkers look for the brewery, alcohol percentage, location of brewery, and more.

How Much Craft Beer are Americans Drinking?

According to this survey, 49% of Americans drink craft beer at least once a week. But all of the respondents said they drank craft beer at least once in the past month. This brings the rate of participation to 100%.

When they drink, Americans are spending $59 on average per month on craft beer. Males spend $7 more than the average, and women $9 less than the average. And the preferred style of beer is IPA (India Pale Ale).

The numbers are slightly higher for millennials. Fifty-six percent of them drink craft beer at least once per week, with an average spend of $63 per month. But IPA is still the preferred beer for this group also.

The Take-Away

The volume share of craft brewers in the market place is more than double digits now. And it shows no sign of slowing down.

The growth is being driven by the quality of the product and the culture of craft brewery itself. Drinkers of craft beer spend more money and they tend to be more loyal customers.

All you have to do is make sure you have choice beers from your local craft brewers on tap to bring them in.
SEC to allow sale of beer, wine at sporting events

WCLU Radio
By Brennan Crain
June 2, 2019

SEC to allow sale of beer, wine at sporting events

DESTIN, Fla. (AP) — Bottoms up, Southeastern Conference.

The powerhouse league bellied up to the bar Friday and voted to allow the sale of beer and wine at sporting events.

Chancellors and school presidents approved the revised rules — the vote wasn’t unanimous — during the conference’s annual spring meetings. The changes are expected to enhance events and create a new revenue stream at a time when schools are spending more on coaches, improving facilities and preparing for the possibility of having to pay players.

The SEC’s 14 schools were previously prohibited from selling alcohol in public areas at venues, a stance that reflected the South’s conservative ways.

Each school now will decide whether to sell alcohol and, if so, to designate the locations where beer and wine will be available.

“Schools will have autonomy,” SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said. “This now is an opportunity for institutions to make responsible and appropriate decisions. ... There are different opinions in the room. Some (schools) I expect won’t (sell alcoholic beverages) at all.”

The new rules include a series of league-wide alcohol management procedures, including a restriction that prohibits sales by vendors in seating areas; a limit on the number of alcoholic beverages purchased per customer; and designated times that sales must end during events.

The changes are sure to draw plenty of cheers and probably some jeers. Will there be more underage drinking? Will there be more fights? Will there be more arrests? What about the longstanding argument that colleges should do everything to curb unruly behavior on campus?

Some studies, however, show alcohol sales reduce the number of alcohol-related incidents at sporting events because they cut down on the amount of binge drinking before games.

“People who have introduced it have not gone up in flames,” Florida athletic director Scott Stricklin said. “So maybe it’s not as dangerous as once thought.”

Schools outside the SEC have been selling alcohol for years, and the results show an economic boon. Texas reportedly grossed $5 million from alcohol sales during the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

The policy takes effect Aug. 1, 2019, and does not impact suites, clubs or privately leased areas in which the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages was previously permitted under existing SEC regulations.

“This policy is intended to enhance the game-day experience at SEC athletics events by providing our schools the autonomy to make appropriate decisions for their respective campuses while also establishing expectations for responsible management of the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages,” said South Carolina President Harris Pastides, the current chair of the league’s presidents and chancellors.
Some of the key rules put in place:

- Alcohol must be dispensed into cups.
- Servers will be trained to handle high-risk situations.
- No alcohol will be served after the end of the third quarter at football games.
- No alcohol will be served after the 12-minute TV timeout during the second half of men’s basketball games and none after the third quarter of women’s games.
- No alcohol will be served after the top of the seventh inning at baseball games and none after the top of the fifth inning at softball games.
- No alcohol will be served after 75% of all other event’s regulation length has been completed.

To beer, or not to beer? Colleges weigh pros, cons of OK’ing alcohol sales

SKYT
By Garrett Wymer
June 2, 2019

LEXINGTON, Ky. (WKYT) A big change could be coming to University of Kentucky sporting events after the Southeastern Conference this week changed its alcohol sales policy.

Before the change, the SEC’s 14 schools were not allowed to sell alcohol in public areas of stadiums and arenas. Now they will have that option. The SEC’s new rules leave it up to each school to decide whether or not they want to sell alcohol during sporting events.

University of Kentucky officials told WKYT that they have not yet made a decision on the matter.

But if they decide to allow it, they'll hardly be the first. Adding alcohol sales at college stadiums and arenas has been an increasing trend in the last decade. The Des Moines Register has published a map showing all the college football venues where fans can buy beer stadium-wide.

"I think everybody has alcohol before the football game anyway," UK fan John Cruz said. "It just makes more sense for UK to make more money."

It can be a lucrative decision for universities, designed in part to boost attendance and revenue. Some major universities - like Ohio State University and the University of Oregon - have reported more than a million dollars a year in alcohol sales.

Kenny Klein, senior associate athletic director at the University of Louisville, told the Lexington Herald-Leader that his school has sold alcohol at games for more than 36 years.

"We may have had a few alcohol-related incidents over the years, but it would be a small number," Klein told the Herald-Leader in an email. "Our concessionaire trains their staff well. We have security personnel monitoring, both uniformed and undercover. We cut off sales at a certain point, and we have no-alcohol sections in football."

At one sports venue in Lexington where alcohol is already served - Whitaker Bank Ballpark - the president of the Lexington Legends told WKYT last week that training is a big step toward making sure they are selling alcohol responsibly.

"The more that we can train them, familiarize them, make sure they are vigilant and responsible the better for everyone," said President Andy Shea. "When you like that so many other universities and professional stadiums, look at movie theaters look at shopping centers and shopping malls and everything. They are serving alcohol. And they’re being responsible about it at customers and fans appreciate it."

Ohio State University and West Virginia University reported declines in ejections and security problems at their football stadiums after they started selling alcohol, according to Inside Higher Ed and other reports.
On the other hand, a study of the University of Colorado at Boulder showed the number of incidents there dropped after they banned sales of alcohol (although the school has since re-introduced it), and Ohio State did see an increase in arrests - largely from underage patrons trying to buy alcohol, a spokesperson said.

UK officials will consider the issue over the next few months to try to come to the right decision for the school, student-athletes and fans, President Eli Capilouto said in a statement.

Supporters point to the opportunity for more revenue and increased attendance, and say it reduces the need for fans to conceal alcohol illegally - or binge drink before games - and instead purchase it in a controlled environment.

Critics say allowing alcohol sales could send a mixed message at a time when many campuses - and society at large - are already grappling with troubling statistics surrounding alcohol abuse and its link to sexual assault.

The SEC still would provide some restrictions to in-stadium alcohol sales. They can only sell beer and wine, and vendors are not allowed to sell in the seats. There is also a limit on the number of drinks per person and specific times when sales must end. The policy also requires training for staff serving alcohol.

The majority of SEC schools are considering alcohol sales but have not yet made a decision, Sports Illustrated reported. Auburn, Alabama and Mississippi State are among the SEC schools not expected to launch alcohol sales this upcoming season, while LSU is likely the most obvious to do so, Sports Illustrated reported. According to SI, Georgia will not sell alcohol stadium-wide but will make it available in a new premium seating area.

The SEC was the only Power Five conference not to allow alcohol sales in general seating areas, USA Today reported. It already allowed alcohol in premium areas like luxury suites. The new conference alcohol sales policy goes into effect August 1.

**College football venues where you can buy beer stadium-wide**

More than 50 NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision schools allow alcohol sales anywhere in their stadiums, whether they play on- or off-campus. Here’s where the beer is on tap.

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**DAILY NEWS**

**TTB News: Upcoming TTB Trade Practice Seminars**

**TTB**  
**May 31, 2019**

It’s not too late to register for one of our free, half-day seminars being held in San Diego and Seattle next week. These seminars give you a basic understanding of the Federal trade practice rules that apply to the alcohol beverage industry, and provide you with the opportunity to ask questions of the TTB trade practice experts.

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Our last two seminars will be in St. Louis on August 1. Read more.
Report: Millennials Force Alcohol Brands to Market 'Wellness'

Newsmax
By Eric Mack
June 2, 2019

Health conscious millennials are spending less money on alcohol, so brands are now marketing "wellness" drinks in an effort to win back market share with its younger demographic, according to Business Insider.

"From my perspective, millennials certainly seem to embrace the concept that 'thy body is thy temple,'" Elliott Coon of GEM&BOLT, a new-age brand, told B.I.

Coon considers the younger drinkers' shift "conscious consumerism," according to the report.

It is not only beer on a health kick either. It has extended to winemakers, per B.I.

The data on millennials' alcohol spending cuts with respect to baby boomers and Generation X were courtesy of a Nerdwallet study from the 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey, according to the report.

The cuts were most notable with beer, as millennials have moved more toward wine and spirits, forcing the beer industry to adjust, according to the study.

"Welcome to the age of wellness beer, in which craft brews can be tools for athletic recovery, self-care and all-around physical optimization," Esther Mobley wrote in April for the San Francisco Chronicle.

Well some studies in the past have suggested moderation in alcohol consumption can have benefits, more studies are suggesting there is no safe level, much less health benefits, per the report.

"The widely held view of the health benefits of alcohol needs revising, particularly as improved methods and analyses continue to shed light on how much alcohol contributes to global death and disability," according to Max Griswold in his 2018 study published in The Lancet.

WSWA's 2019 Legislative Fly-In Promotes 85 Years of Successful State-based Alcohol Regulation

Yahoo Finance!
PR Newswire
June 3, 2019

The association will kick off the week by hosting a reception with the Problem Solvers Caucus and conclude with "Toast to Congress" Event

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Nearly 40 executives from more than 14 Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA) member companies will meet with members of Congress on legislative issues affecting the livelihood of wholesalers during their Annual Legislative Fly-In on June 3-4 in Washington, D.C.

The Fly-In will begin with an evening reception and dinner with a presentation by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Tom Reed (R-NY), co-chairs of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, followed by a full day of meetings on Capitol Hill to discuss important legislative issues, including support of H. Res. 285, a bipartisan resolution supporting America's independent alcohol distribution system, pass-through tax rates, full funding for trade practice enforcement by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), and initiatives to fight impaired driving. Rep. Stephanie Murphy and members of the House Blue Dog Coalition will address attendees during a luncheon Tuesday and the Fly-In will conclude with WSWA's Toast to Congress reception on Wednesday, June 5.

"Our Fly-In enables multigenerational family-owned businesses to come to Washington and bring the story of how America's wine and spirits wholesalers have helped set the global standard for the wine and spirits industry," said WSWA President and CEO, Michelle Korsmo. "It's critical that members of Congress understand the importance of the alcohol industry's three-tier system and that they have a good understanding of issues that affect wholesalers' businesses. As the glue between producers and retailers, wholesalers play a vital role in the safety and prosperity of the alcohol industry and their livelihood must be protected."
"WSWA is the voice of wine and spirits wholesalers nationwide, making the annual fly-in a great opportunity to spend time with elected officials and discuss our priorities with them," said Sydney Ross, WSWA Chairman and co-CEO of Great Lakes Wine and Spirits in Highland Park, Michigan. "Collectively, America's distributors have helped create the global standard for a wine and spirits industry through the three-tier system. As I always say, if it ain't 3-T, it ain't me," he added.

WSWA members will meet with members of Congress and staff from more than 150 Congressional offices including: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), and others.

WSWA members attending the legislative Fly-In include: Allied Beverage Group; Breakthru Beverage Group; Empire Merchants, Godfrey & Kahn SC; Great Lakes Wine & Spirits; Heidelberg Distributing Co.; LibDib (Liberation Distribution, Inc.); Major Brands, Inc.; Moon Distributors, Inc.; Republic National Distributing Company; Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits; The Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio; Wine & Spirits Distributors of Indiana; Young's Market Company.

Wine and spirits wholesalers employ 88,000 Americans across every state and congressional district who earn a collective $7.5 billion in annual wages as part of an industry that generates $77.5 billion in tax revenue each year. Since 2016, wholesaler jobs have increased 19 percent and collective wages paid have increased by $1 billion.

To learn more about WSWA's Fly-In and legislative priorities, please click here.

To learn about the economic impact of wine and spirits wholesalers nationally, or by state, congressional district, state senate district, or state house district, click here.

WSWA is the national trade association representing the wholesale tier of the wine and spirits industry, dedicated to advancing the interests and independence of wholesalers, distributors and brokers of wine and spirits. Founded in 1943, WSWA has more than 370 member companies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and its members distribute more than 80 percent of all wine and spirits sold at wholesale in the U.S.

Visit www.wswa.org to learn more.