

NABCA

DAILY NEWS UPDATE

Monday, May 16, 2022

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CONTROL STATE NEWS

IA: Iowa campaign launched to reform state marijuana laws

A campaign is underway to show legislators there is broad support for Iowa to join other states in reforming marijuana laws

The Gazette

By James Q. Lynch

May 16, 2022

DES MOINES -- In recent years, the Iowa Legislature has opened the door to medical marijuana but kept it closed on attempts to ease restrictions on the possession and use of cannabis.

In the current legislative session, a Democratic proposal, Senate Joint Resolution 2003, means to amend the Iowa Constitution to legalize and regulate marijuana from cultivation to use by adults 21 and older.

It didn't go anywhere.

That has been the case in the Republican-controlled House and Senate for other attempts to decriminalize marijuana possession or legalize its use.

Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver, R-Ankeny, said his chamber has provided

“access for lowans suffering from chronic diseases to medicinal cannabis,” adding, “There is not support among Senate Republicans to legalize recreational marijuana.”

Now, a campaign has been launched to show legislators there is indeed broad support for Iowa to join other states in reforming marijuana laws.

Legislative leaders and Gov. Kim Reynolds are out of touch with changing attitudes toward marijuana, said Brad Knott, president of Campaign for Sensible Cannabis Laws.

Not only have GOP leaders stymied action on marijuana reform, but Reynolds has repeatedly voiced opposition to legalizing marijuana use, including threatening to veto such legislation.

When Illinois became the 11th state to legalize cannabis use for adults, Reynolds made clear she didn’t support legalizing recreational marijuana.

“I won’t be the governor to do that,” Reynolds told The Gazette.

Her position hasn’t changed since then.

“I believe marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to other illegal drug use and has a negative effect on our society,” Reynolds said in a statement.

“We are currently facing a crisis at our southern border with record amounts of drugs pouring into our country and infiltrating our states and communities,” the statement continued. “On top of that, our nation is facing critical worker shortages, supply chain shortages, among many other issues that we should be focused on.”

Organizing support

That leads Knott, who has worked in public policy in Iowa for decades, to say the discussion is “artificially stuck.”

“We see majority support in polling, but the governor and the leadership in the Legislature say it’s dead on arrival,” he said.

Knott points to an Iowa Poll, which found more than half of lowans support legalizing recreational use of marijuana and three-fourths support broader uses of medical marijuana.

Along with Pete D’Alessandro, a veteran of numerous Iowa political campaigns, Knott’s effort is not to push a specific plan, “but it’s really to give people a voice because they’re not being heard right now on the issue.”

The campaign is not tied to political parties or candidates. However, Knott believes cannabis reform is an issue that resonates with voters.

By identifying support and assigning it to specific legislative districts, “we can show these legislators that they actually have support to address cannabis reform without being beat down by the Republicans or the leadership.”

Whitver may be right that Republican legislators are not currently ready to take action, but Knott is hearing there may be differences between what they say in public and what they are open to if they know voters are behind them.

“In public, they seem to be pretty much holding the line of the governor and leadership, but privately, I hear that a lot of them would move if they just got the freedom to do so from leadership,” Knott said.

Dems in favor

That’s not a problem for Democratic candidates and officeholders, according to Senate Minority Leader Zach Wahls, D-Coralville, who said legalizing cannabis for adult use is “long past due.”

“Democrats support legalization and Republicans oppose legalization, (so) lowans

who want legal cannabis need to vote for Democrats this election,” he said.

Sen. Joe Bolkcom, D-Iowa City, has been a leader in the effort to reform Iowa’s marijuana laws.

Cannabis prohibition has not worked, and the failure of Reynolds and Republican leaders to even discuss a wide range of cannabis policy reforms “is depressing and bad for Iowa,” Bolkcom said.

“As long as Republicans are in control of state government, nothing will change,” he said. “Cannabis reform is much more likely to come from Democrats in control of Congress than from the Iowa Republican lawmakers.”

Perception changed

Knott’s campaign doesn’t plan to get involved in this fall’s elections. Rather it is attempting to make the case that Iowa is out of step in treating cannabis reform “like the 1960s and these are the hippies.”

“We’re closer to 2060 than 1960 and the perceptions of cannabis have changed radically,” he said. “It’s seen by most people as a form of either medicine or just a mild recreation similar to alcohol, if not safer.”

According to the campaign’s website, more than half of all Americans live in states where cannabis is legal.

The National Conference of State Legislatures reports 37 states, four territories and the District of Columbia allow the medical use of cannabis products.

Eighteen states, two territories and the District of Columbia have enacted law to regulate cannabis for adult non-medical use.

The benefits

Those states, Knott said, are reaping the benefits of better medical care, less crowded courts and other benefits that follow reform.

In some Iowa counties, according to the reform campaign, as many as 20 percent of arrests are for simple possession, “filling jails, jamming courts all over non-violent conduct that’s legal in most states.”

It also diverts resources from more serious crimes, such as gun violence and meth.

Those states with legal pot also are seeing higher tax revenues.

Nationwide, cannabis sales have generated \$10 billion dollars in taxes. Illinois, which last year legalized cannabis use for medical purposes and adult recreational use, reaped \$200 million.

Oregon, with a population of 4.3 million, had \$178 million in cannabis tax revenue in 2021, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Maine, with 1.4 million people, collected \$14 million.

In Iowa, with 3.2 million people, The Motley Fool estimates cannabis tax revenue could be as much as \$50 million annually.

Petition underway

The cannabis reform campaign doesn’t expect overnight change in Iowa’s laws. It will work through the campaign season to gather signatures on a petition to present to legislators and others to build its case for change, Knott said.

“We just need to move this off the dime right now,” he said. In conversations with lawmakers, lobbyists and others, the response is that nothing is happening now, so why should they risk anything by supporting change.

“We need to show them that they have room to talk about it, that there is political support behind them, that they won’t be punished for taking these steps and then let them work that out,” Knott said.

LICENSE STATE NEWS

AK: Alaska House approves major update to alcohol laws, including changes for breweries

Anchorage Daily News

By James Brooks, Alaska Beacon

May 15, 2022

JUNEAU -- The president of the Alaska Brewers Guild held his head in his hands, the Senate president laughed and smiled, and the head of Alaska's largest alcohol trade organization exchanged high-fives with lawmakers as the Alaska House decisively ended 10 years of struggle by passing a sweeping reform of the state's alcohol laws.

"I think we're all ready to move on," said Rep. James Kaufman, R-Anchorage, who carried the bill in the House.

Senate Bill 9, approved 35-2 by the House on Sunday evening, comprehensively changes the way Alaska regulates alcohol-serving businesses and punishes them if things go wrong.

The customers of Alaska's bars, breweries, distilleries and liquor stores will see few immediate changes, but those involved in the alcohol industry -- including the people who regulate it and public health organizations who deal with its problems -- say it will modernize the state's industry.

It also may conclusively end a conflict between established bars and newcomer breweries and distilleries.

Alaska regulates the number of alcohol-related businesses according to the population of a town, city or borough, and most cities are at or above their limit when it comes to bars and liquor stores.

That's created a high-cost market for secondhand licenses, which can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Brewery and distillery taproom licenses are cheaply available over

the counter from the state, and bars have been worried about competition that could devalue their licenses.

"For some people, it's their retirement," said Rep. Adam Wool, D-Fairbanks.

The dispute between those segments of the alcohol industry killed prior legislative efforts at reform.

Before the 2020 legislative session, industry officials negotiated an agreement, but COVID-19 brought the session to an early end, and legislation never passed.

The Senate passed a revised version of the bill in 2021, and now the House has followed suit.

"A lot of the controversy ... has been resolved," said Wool, a former bar owner whose opposition had been a significant roadblock to passage.

To address the concerns of existing licensees, new taproom licenses will be limited to 1 for every 9,000 people in a town or city. Other licenses are available on a 1 per 3,000 person basis, and the number of breweries and distilleries has no limit -- they just can't open a taproom.

Existing taprooms can stay open, even if their city is over the new limit. Taprooms will also be able to be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Current law requires them to close at 8 p.m.

Taprooms are currently barred from holding live-music events but will be allowed to hold a limited number of events per year.

Other restrictions remain in place: no TVs, no chairs or stools at the taproom bar, and limited serving sizes.

In Alaska, taprooms have been used as a way for small breweries to make money and create a market for their beer before they begin distributing widely.

Limiting the number of new taprooms has been intensely controversial, and on Sunday,

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, D-Sitka, unsuccessfully attempted to reduce the limit.

“This substantially restricts competition and restricts business creation in this industry,” he said.

His amendment failed 15-22, with opponents saying they didn’t want to disrupt a delicately balanced compromise among different parts of the alcohol industry.

“Maybe it’s time we stop screwing around with this ... let’s go ahead and pass this thing,” said Rep. Kevin McCabe, R-Big Lake.

Among the bill’s effects:

- The state will begin to license companies that ship alcohol by mail, taxing those businesses for the first time. Licensing will help police fight bootlegging to the state’s “dry” communities, proponents say.
- Beer kegs must be registered, allowing police to track who bought the alcohol for an underage drinking party.
- Local governments, including Alaska Native tribes, can now buy alcohol licenses.
- Because the Alaska Department of Law rarely prosecutes misdemeanors, many low-level alcohol crimes will become citations instead of misdemeanors. Proponents said businesses operating improperly were escaping punishment because of the state’s low prosecution rate.
- It’s easier to serve beer and wine at a music festival, outdoor concert or nonprofit event by using a restaurant’s alcohol license, even if the event takes place away from the restaurant.
- The bill makes most types of licenses more expensive, but licensees will get additional privileges. Liquor stores will be able to hold events at which they can serve samples. They can also deliver alcohol to homes. A bar will be able to serve alcohol at multiple counters under one license.

SB 9 must return to the Senate for a procedural vote, but Senate President Peter Micciche, who has pushed the bill for the past 10 years, said he expects that will be just a formality before the bill goes to Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who is expected to approve it.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canada: Quebec liquor stores will see second price hike in 6 months

CTV News

The Canadian Press Staff

May 16, 2022

For the second time in just over six months, Quebec’s liquor stores (SAQs) will see a price increase.

This time, prices will go up 3.7 per cent, on average, on 2,550 products.

The increase will take effect next Sunday, May 22, for the vast majority of products, but on July 17 for 80 of them.

Among specialty products, mainly offered in the Espace Cellier, 1,328 will see a price increase of 3.3 per cent, while the prices of 157 others will decrease by 2.6 per cent next Sunday.

The SAQ reports that 182 other products will see their prices reduced by an average of 2.1 per cent, while 606 will remain stable.

Early last November, the SAQ announced that it would be raising prices by an average of 1.66 per cent on 1,332 products, most of them in the following days, although prices on about 50 of them were not raised until late last January.

In a news release published Monday, the provincially-owned company explained that due to the disruption of the global supply chain, an exceptional rise in shipping costs and increased production costs for suppliers, the new price adjustment is necessary.

The SAQ said that suppliers' production costs are related to shortages of bottles, corks and labels, as well as a shortage of labour.

In addition, unfavourable weather conditions in 2021 are still affecting product supply for some wine regions, according to the SAQ, with lower availability of some products and demand remaining strong. Three French regions have been particularly affected: Beaujolais, Burgundy and Loire.

Similar arguments were used by the SAQ last November to justify the price increase at that time.

The corporation also said that on April 1, the Government of Canada increased excise duty rates on alcoholic beverages. For wine, an increase of 2.4 per cent was applied, which is another factor that affected the price adjustment.

Canada: Glass shortage has pubs, distilleries nearing the breaking point

Kanata distiller says he's been reusing maple syrup bottles

CBC News

By Avanthika Anand

May 16, 2022

Several Ottawa distilleries, restaurants and pubs are among the latest victims of global supply chain disruptions, as a shortage of glass bottles has left them wondering how to serve their customers.

Adam Brierley, owner of Ogham Craft Spirits micro-distillery, says he was reduced to selling spirits in maple syrup bottles due to the shortage this year.

His Kanata distillery might not see new glass bottles again until 2023, he said.

"If we don't have that vessel to give to the customers, there's a big problem," said Brierley.

Before COVID-19 pandemic, Brierley said he could place an order for glass bottles and expect them to arrive within a week.

Now, he says he has to put in orders at least six months in advance -- and the bottles that are available are significantly more expensive.

'There just simply isn't any stock'

The effects of supply chain slowdowns have been felt in many different Canadian sectors, causing furniture prices to rise, cattle producers to run out of feed for their animals, and automakers to halt production and lay off employees.

The glass bottle shortage is affecting liquor authorities on both sides of the Ottawa River, with the LCBO telling CBC in an email they were experiencing "global supply chain challenges with some products."

The SAQ, meanwhile, said in an email they were experiencing shortages of items like glass, wine corks and labels, which was causing "some shortage of alcohols or some delivery delay."

Some local bars who source their spirits from the LCBO say they're now feeling the pinch.

"Our customers are no stranger to coming in and asking for their favourite drink," said Mike Estabrooks, owner of Irene's Pub and Restaurant. "And the bartender [is now] apologizing and saying there just simply isn't any stock."

Estabrooks said he used to be able to get everything he needed for the Glebe bar in one visit to the nearest LCBO. Now he visits at least three different locations, and sometimes returns empty-handed.

Estabrooks said he's stocking up on liquor for the next two months to avoid shortages in the summer, and having to buy it all at once is causing cash flow issues.

Could be passed on to customers

At Deacon Brodie's, owner Ken Goodhue said he relies heavily on the LCBO to get single malt scotch, his bar's specialty. But it's now a rare sight, and Goodhue is worried he won't be able to retain clientele who come to the Elgin Street pub to enjoy scotch and take part in tastings.

While he's still serving some of the liquor from the Highlander Pub, which closed down in 2020 at the outset of the pandemic, Goodhue says that's not a long-term solution.

"We can't replace it. Once they're gone, they're gone," he said. "Because there is no product available."

Brierley said the disruptions are contributing to a rise in both the price of glass bottles and their transportation to Canada, with customers likely shouldering the burden.

That leaves him worried about the future of the local beverage industry.

"These compounding costs are going to scare people away from supporting local, because local will become too expensive," he said.

"Ultimately we need to stay in business, because we need something that supports my family."

INDUSTRY NEWS

Boann Distillery and Slane Whiskey team up with Bord Bia

Independent.ie

By Niamh McGovern

May 16, 2022

Boann Distillery and Slane Whiskey have teamed up with Bord Bia to officially launch its new Spirit of Ireland drinks campaign in the US as part of the Irish government's trade mission to North America and Mexico. It is the single largest investment Bord Bia has made to date in the promotion of Irish spirits.

"Irish Whiskey is exported all around the globe and is enjoying double digit growth in the USA," said Sally Anne Cooney from Boann Distillery.

"'Spirit of Ireland' is an educational communications programme aimed at building awareness of the growing Irish spirits category for US customer facing staff and educating about the history, heritage and future of Irish Spirits. The program will be rolled out over 17 states in 2022 and 2023 with an investment of €750,000.

"Boann Distillery is delighted to be involved in this initiative as the US market is a focus market for us and will help to drive awareness of our brands, our family distillery and the larger Irish Whiskey category into the future. It is exciting times in the industry and we are so excited to be part of writing the story of Irish Whiskey into the future."

Spirit of Ireland is an educational programme aimed at US customer-facing staff selling Irish spirits in off-licenses and bars. The €750,000 trade communications campaign comprises virtual reality tours of twenty of Ireland's distilleries, featuring interviews with master distillers and barrel coopers so staff can learn first-hand from brand owners in Ireland what makes their product unique and distinctive.

Alex Conyngham, co-founder of Slane Irish Whiskey added, "I think anything that promotes the understanding of the Irish Whiskey category which this initially will do is good news because it's a rising tide.

"It increases awareness across the industry. The history of Ireland and Irish whiskey is intertwined, it's part of our culture. Irish whiskey is our national drink and to have a chance to make people aware of that history and bringing these distilleries to life particularly through the virtual tours is going to bring to life the stories.

"I love being a part of this industry because every job we trade in in Irish Whiskey has to

stay in Ireland and you can't make it anywhere else."

Offering a unique sensory experience using "scratch and sniff" cards to smell and experience barley fields and barrel houses, the classes are all aimed at creating an in-depth understanding of Irish spirits.

Officially launching the Spirit of Ireland drinks trade communication campaign with the Ohio Liquor Control Commission, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D., said, "Irish spirits are now exported to over 130 countries around the world and experiencing a renaissance. From Irish whiskey to Irish gin, and traditional Irish poitín to Irish cream liqueur, they form an evolving, innovative sector that is on a fast growth trajectory in the US. Bord Bia's new drinks trade communication campaign in the US demonstrates Ireland's commitment to the US market, build the awareness of this growing spirits category and positively influence commercial success."

Exports of Irish alcohol to the US have been strong in recent years – in 2021 Irish beverage exports to the US were valued at €657 million, up 17% from €561 million in 2020. That recovery was most robust in Irish whiskey and cream liqueur exports.

Speaking at the launch of the Bord Bia event, Henry Horkan, Bord Bia North America Director said, "US consumers appreciate the quality and taste of Irish spirits and Bord Bia is undertaking this activity to ensure the position of the spirits category is protected and strengthened. The primary aim of Spirit of Ireland is to inform and educate the alcohol trade industry about the history and heritage of Irish spirits. Attendees learn the history, the renaissance and the future of Irish spirits allowing them to share this story widely both with their colleagues and consumers to inform, educate and overall, deliver increased commercial value on behalf of the Irish drink sector. We believe this education programme

will lead to more opportunities for Irish distilleries and for brands to increase their market presence in North America and gain preference amongst consumers."

Last year Irish whiskey exports to the US were up 19% compared to 2020, he said, and pointed to the growing trend of premiumisation in the sector.

He added, "Irish spirits have made a remarkable recovery since the pandemic and continue to grow year by year in the US. Over half of all Irish drinks exports are destined for the US, so there has never been a more opportune time to launch this trade programme, and it is the first time the Irish distilling sector has collectively come together to showcase its industry to a worldwide trade audience of buyers, customer-facing store personnel and influential stakeholders. The single most important current trend in the global spirits industry today is premiumisation and The Spirit of Ireland campaign will provide a unique opportunity for industry professionals in US retail and food service outlets to hear from some of Ireland's most renowned industry innovators across all categories including Irish whiskey, which is the fastest-growing spirits category in the world."

In February of this year Bord Bia successfully delivered one pilot programme for the New Hampshire Liquor Commission, the government agency of New Hampshire that regulates the sale of alcoholic beverages. This included 75 participants comprising managers of the state-controlled liquor stores.

While being officially launched in Ohio as part of the trade mission, Spirit of Ireland will be further rolled out within key control state markets for Irish alcohol in the US and also in Canada over the course of 2022 and into 2023, building longevity and deepening programme awareness.

With 20 fully operational distilleries included as part of our virtual distiller tour, this is considered phase one of a commitment to have all of Ireland's Origin Green verified distilleries included in the programme. A further 10 distilleries will be included in Bord Bia's virtual tour during the course of 2022, with others added as they commence production and with product available for export.

DAILY NEWS

What Happens To Your Body When You Drink Alcohol On An Empty Stomach

Tasting Table

By Cyrena Gourdeau

May 15, 2022

Humans have been drinking alcohol for thousands of years. Consider, traces of 13,000 year-old beer in present-day Israel may just prove the location of the world's oldest brewery (via the American Association for the Advancement of Science). However, alcohol consumption by humans has seemingly always been paired with eating. As a report published in the Journal of Archaeological Science suggests, beer, for example, was originally "brewed for ritual feasts to honor the dead."

Drinking alcohol, of course, is still part and parcel of a fine dining experience. Further, most bars offer bar food and light snacks, and for a good reason -- it's safer to eat as you're consuming alcohol. But binge-drinking culture, pre-gaming, and the use of the phrase "it's 5 o'clock somewhere" have many of us drinking alcohol on an empty stomach. For most people, drinking without having eaten anything is a surefire way to get a little tipsy faster than usual. But what actually happens when you drink alcohol on an empty stomach?

The science behind drinking on an empty stomach

The first thing to understand is that when you imbibe an alcoholic drink, the body absorbs the alcohol in three different places. According to Healthline, a small percentage will be absorbed through the small blood vessels in the mouth and tongue, then 20% will be absorbed through the stomach, and the remaining 75-80% will be absorbed through the small intestine.

While everyone absorbs alcohol at a different rate based on their body weight, age, and even gender, one factor that also impacts alcohol absorption rate is how much food one eats while also drinking. Per The New York Times, drinking on an empty stomach means that the alcohol passes from the stomach to the small intestine and then into the bloodstream at an accelerated rate. This can intensify the side effects of drinking, which can impair your thinking or make body coordination more difficult.

Drinking too much can obviously be dangerous, but drinking on an empty stomach is a dangerous shortcut to being too drunk, which can be easily avoided. The next time you plan on having a big night out, make sure to also drink water and to have healthy snacks on hand, like pretzels or popcorn.

This Is America's Oldest Beer

MSN

By Douglas A. McIntyre

May 15, 2022

Nearly as many people in America drink beer as those who drink water. That's something of an exaggeration, but the National Beer Wholesalers Association reports that in 2020, adults in the U.S. consumed over 26.1 gallons of beer and cider per capita, with the beer industry shipping 205 million barrels. A small portion of that deserves particular attention: Yuengling Lord Chesterfield Ale, America's oldest beer.

Beer is old. Beer-like beverages have probably been made for about 9,000 years. There is evidence that the earliest examples were brewed in the Middle East around 7,000 B.C. By 3,000 B.C., beer was present in Europe. Over the centuries, Germany became known as the home of master brewers.

24/7 Tempo reviewed information from various media sources and breweries themselves to determine America's oldest beers. The first recorded one brewed on American soil dates all the way back to 1587, and the first commercial brewery popped up in 1632. However, the oldest continuously operating brewery in America dates only from the 1800s. That brewery is still making the same beers that it did nearly 200 years ago.

Yuengling was founded by David G. Yuengling in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, in 1829 - more than a dozen years before the next-oldest widely available beer that is still sold today (Schaefer Lager). Originally called Eagle Brewery, the name was changed to D.G. Yuengling & Son in 1873. During Prohibition, Yuengling sold dairy products and near-beer to remain profitable. (Here's the best beer in every state and D.C.)

The oldest beers in America originated in only a handful of states, with Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Missouri home to several of them. In some states, whether it is because of climate and culture, beer consumption is far higher than others. (Learn which states are drinking the most beer.)

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