



THE WHOLESALE BEER AND WINE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

37 W. BROAD STREET, SUITE 1170 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

(614) 224-3500 • 800-282-7639 (OHIO)

WBWAO.ORG

Testimony on House Bill 674
Ohio House Committee on Commerce and Labor
Representative Gayle Manning, Chair
Jacob C. Evans, Counsel for Legislative Affairs

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to express the opinions of the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio on House Bill 674.

The WBWAO represents family owned beer, wine and mixed beverage distributors throughout Ohio. In addition to alcohol beverages, our members also distribute water, juice and other beverages.

A significant portion of HB 674 reflects a several month effort from those in the beer industry, including Anheuser Busch, Diageo, MillerCoors, the Ohio Craft Brewers Association and the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association, to work on items in which we could mutually agree. Based upon those meetings and the bill draft before you, we support the following issues:

1. Growler clean-up: current law requires a growler to be made of glass. The language in HB 674 would allow for other materials to be allowed for the growler
2. Purpose Language: this language simply clarifies the intent and authority for Ohio's alcohol beverage laws.
3. Glassware: provides for an increase in the number of cases of glassware (from 2 cases to 4) that a retailer may receive from a supplier.
4. Clarification regarding the food requirement at brewpubs: longstanding interpretation from the Division of Liquor Control in regards to the food that must be offered in order to obtain your liquor permit
5. F-11 Liquor Permit: allows for an event to use employees of the brewer to help pour beer at the event.
6. Social Media Advertising: allows for suppliers and wholesalers to use social media to market their products by promoting an event, sales event or product location.
7. F Permit Lease Agreements: allows a manufacturer to lease space to temporary retail permit holder.

Additionally, the WBWAO is supportive of the changes to the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area statute.

In regards to local option changes, we believe that there was significant disagreement among interested parties over this proposal when it appeared as House Bill 219. There were questions regarding the impact on areas that have rejected Sunday sales and the financial impact from a loss of D6 revenue. As such, we do not believe that it should be included in a bill that is intended to be passed quickly in order to assist businesses coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Thank you for your time and I will try to answer any questions that Committee members.