

CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos and Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents Connecticut off-premise package store retailers. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT. We are submitting this testimony on the following bills:

Proposed H.B. No. 5168 AN ACT CONCERNING THE METHOD OF PAYMENT MADE TO ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR WHOLESALERS.

We understand there are retailers that may fail to pay their bills on time, but we are hesitant to support a universal change to the way that each wholesaler and their respective retail clients do business. Some of the larger wholesalers have a larger sales force that can focus on payment pickups while smaller wholesalers do not have the staff or resources to do the same. Our suggested change to the process would be to allow credit card payments. This would allow those retailers that may truly not have an ability to send a check by the thirtieth of the month to have the option of payment in a more efficient manner.

Proposed H.B. No. 5349 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEESE SHOP WINE AND BEER PERMIT

CPSA did not support the portion of the bill that allowed cheese products to be sold in their stores in the 2012 omnibus alcohol beverage bill. Like all compromise legislation that portion remained in there. CPSA surveyed stores and it was determined that very few retailers are selling cheese as a result of the 2012 law. If current cheese-shop retailers want to own package store permits there appears to be nothing disallowing them from doing so. If the Committee would like to clarify what types of cheese package stores can sell, limiting it to certain types of cheese for instance, we would not oppose that measure. We would also not oppose a repeal of that portion of the law with a grandfathered clause for those few currently selling.