

My name is Bill DeDominicis. I own a bowling center in Torrington and I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Bowling Proprietors Association.

We are very much in favor of SB# 388, which pertains to "The Service and Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor at Bowling Establishments".

I have been in this industry for well over forty years and active in this association all that time. Bowling centers were first allowed to have alcohol in the mid seventies and over that period of time you will find we run very compliant operations.

Although we can open our lounges at 9am section 30-91 © of the liquor regulations restricts us from serving alcohol to the bowling lane area before 2pm, seven days a week.

This presents an inconvenience for the senior citizens that would like a glass of wine while they participate in their traditional league at 1:00pm. It also is inconvenient for the centers that are lucky enough to still have third shift morning leagues, consisting of people just coming out of work.

The biggest problem for all of us, in the bowling industry, is when we are hosting weekend tournaments, fundraisers and special events. Many of the participants also bowl league during the evenings when a waitress serves them at the lanes. During the weekend functions that may start at 11am the bowler will go into the lounge and being unaware of the regulation carry the drink to the bowling area. Our staff then has to tell them it is not allowed before two o'clock. Even after being told it is a state regulation they feel it is a house rule. They would not have purchased the drink if they knew it had to be confined to the lounge. The end result is the customer returns to the lounge and consumes the drink rapidly, which is not good for either of us. This also delayed the game, which annoys their teammates.

In closing I would like to say that Section 30-91c has singled out bowling centers for whatever reason I don't know. I cannot think of what it has accomplished or what it was intended to accomplish but we would appreciate the same flexible serving hours as the other on premise permits.

If this bill is enacted I don't see a big increase in sales. It is a customer relation's thing.

I hope you will feel fit to approve this bill and that it proceeds through the system and is finally corrected.

I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to address your committee.

If I can add further information I can be reached at 860-489-3343.