



Connecticut HB 6886

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED FOOD LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO NON-ALCOHOLIC MALT BEVERAGES

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The Beer Institute, the national trade association for U.S. brewers and beer importers and industry suppliers, large and small, writes in support of HB 6886 to clarify that non-alcoholic malt beverages would not be subject to the GMO labeling requirements.

Under Connecticut law passed in 2013 (Public Act 13-183), wine, spirits and beer are exempt from GMO labeling requirements. We believe that for purposes of the labeling requirement, non-alcoholic (NA) malt beverages (beer) should be exempt. NA beer is an adult beverage. As with regular beer, brewers and importers market NA beer to consumers of legal drinking age.

The process for brewing NA beer is also essentially the same as the process for brewing regular beer. The only difference is that at the end of the brewing process, the brewer extracts most, but not all, of the alcohol from the NA beer. NA beer is not completely alcohol-free. It still contains a small amount of alcohol, generally one-half of one percent or less.

The 2013 law requires the labeling of food products with ingredients that contain genetically modified organisms (GMO) but does not apply to certain food products, such as (1) food not packaged for retail sale that is intended for immediate consumption, (2) certain farm products and (3) alcohol, which includes wine, spirits and most beers. According to Connecticut statute (section 30-1(3)), "non-alcoholic beer", despite the fact that it contains a small amount of alcohol, does not fall under the definition of "alcohol" and consequently, would not be exempt from the labeling requirement.

The Beer Institute urges the General Law Committee to support HB 6886 and appreciates the consideration of this matter.