



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER ROSARIO

128TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4013
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
E-MAIL: Christopher.Rosario@cga.ct.gov

DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 6, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB-6940 An Act Authorizing Extended Liquor Sales In Designated Nightlife Entertainment Zones.

Good morning, my name is Christopher Rosario and I am the representative for the 128th District in Bridgeport. I would like to thank the Chairs Senator Steve Cassano, Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey and members of the Planning and Development Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of HB-6940 An Act Authorizing Extended Liquor Sales in Designated Nightlife Entertainment Zones.

The purpose of this bill is to attract young people to the state by helping nightlife businesses compete with neighboring states' nightlife businesses. That would be achieved by extending liquor sales until 4 a.m. The revenue sharing program created to help allocate the fees generated by the extended use permit would be shared between the state and municipalities.

I support this bill because we must do everything to make this state and our cities as attractive as New York or Massachusetts and even New Jersey. In the search for more revenue, one of the areas I believe we must focus on is attracting young people to Connecticut. When you Google Search "best nightlife in tri-state area", the results that come up first are places in New York. It is understandable because New York is a very attractive city that is known for its nightlife.

However, in a state that is between two major cities in the world, we must be able to compete with them. Bars and clubs in New York are able to serve alcohol until 4 a.m. while our bars must stop serving at 2 a.m. on weekends. Extended sales would make our nightlife establishments more attractive to stay in than travelling to New York, especially for young people from neighboring counties like Fairfield and New Haven counties.

Not only would our nightlife establishments benefit from the revenue of extended sales, but also, our late night diners, restaurants, and other late night entertainment places could benefit from the extended sales.

I would like to thank the chairs and the committee for allowing me to testify on this bill. If the chairs or any members of the committee have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I would gladly answer any questions pertaining to this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Rosario
State Representative
128th District