

Key “Friend of Grocers” Vote



For more information, contact 608.244.7150
Brandon Scholz, Brandon@wisconsinagrocers.com
Michelle Kussow, MKussow@wisconsinagrocers.com

WGA Position Paper

Repeal Alcohol Credit Terms & Minimize penalties for Retailer-to-Retailer Alcohol Purchases

Federal law prohibits retailers “Retail Dealers” from selling any distilled spirits, wine or beer to another dealer for purposes of resale until they obtain a wholesaler's basic permit under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act. Wisconsin law also prohibits sales outside of the three-tier system and imposes a tiered fine based on the amount of liquor purchased by a retailer from another licensed alcohol retailer. In addition, Wisconsin law states that retail licensees can only purchase alcohol for cash or on credit terms not to exceed 15 days for beer and 30 days for liquor.

Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater), Rep. Rob Brooks (R-Sauville) and Rep. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown) will be introducing a bill that lessens the penalty for retailer-to-retailer alcohol sales and repeals the credit terms for beer and liquor. Specifically, the bill will increase the threshold of alcohol from 12 liters a month to 48 liters and changes the violation from the current penalty of \$100 to a civil offense rather than a crime.

Without making changes to the federal law, this bill will minimize the penalties for retailer-to-retailer alcohol sales which may be needed in dire situations to maintain business operations. Repealing the requirement to include credit terms for alcohol will allow retailers to negotiate terms with distributors, as they do with other products. Both provisions are meant to provide flexibility and remove unnecessary regulations from small businesses.

Action Requested: Ask your legislator to sign on to the bill (LRB 21-1930) by contacting Sen. Nass or Rep. Knodl’s office. The co-sponsorship deadline is May 12th.

Key “Friend of Grocers” Vote

Key “Friend of Grocers” Vote

Key “Friend of Grocers” Vote