

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon Jr.
House Committee on Corporations
RI House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H. 5603 – Class P liquor licenses

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of the RI Hospitality Association, we write in support of H-5603, which would allow Class P liquor licenses (catering) to purchase liquor from either a retail liquor store or an alcohol distributor.


This legislation is a simple matter of fairness. Catering companies are simply mobile restaurants and should be able to access the same pricing structure as restaurants. In fact, the entire premise of the three-tier liquor system is based on the premise that retailers (liquor stores and restaurants) purchase from distributors, who purchase the product from manufacturers. There is no reason why there is different system for catering companies.


The current structure also burdensome for businesses that have a Class B liquor license (traditional restaurant) and a Class P license. As it stands right now, these businesses are required to purchase the same product from two different sources, simply because they are catering an event. This creates confusion and additional costs for Rhode Island businesses.

Thank you for your consideration on this topic. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at sarah@rihospitality.org or 401-223-1120.

Sincerely,

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