

January 25, 2022

Testimony in support of H 7060

Honorable members of the House Corporations Committee:

The Rhode Island Small Business Coalition (RISBC) is made up of local businesses coming together to support each other and advocate for our mutual needs. Comprised of over 1,500 member businesses across every industry in Rhode Island, we ensure our collective voice is heard to create the change we need. The RISBC is in favor of passage of H 7060 with two requested amendments.

H 7060 adds a provision to the existing law that allows for “drink specials served as part of a larger transaction that includes a meal” and excludes snacks “including, but not limited to, pretzels, popcorn, chips, or similar food” as not meeting the definition of a meal. The RISBC would ask that the legislation is amended by striking “includes a meal” and adding “includes one or more items ordered from a licensee’s menu” while keeping the exclusion of snacks. Meal is a very vague term and some items like a salad or chicken wings could serve as a meal to a person.

Secondly, H 7060 does not remove the ability for licensees to advertise or promote their specials. In this day of social media posts and subscriber-only newsletters, to not allow venues to let their followers, their opted-in clientele, know about a drink special seems counter-intuitive to how people interact and enjoy their favorite bars and restaurants. The RISBC asks that the legislation be amended to remove section (4)(b)(1) or at least allow for social media and other online promotions.

Respectfully, our Coalition urges you to pass H 7060 forward to the full House in this session with these two requested amendments. Thank you for your consideration.



Christopher Parisi, Co-Founder & President