



January 25, 2022

Testimony in Support of H 7060

Representative Joseph J. Solomon Jr
Chairman, House Committee on Corporations
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

On behalf of the Ocean State Coalition and our hundreds of restaurant colleagues throughout the state we wish to express our support for bill H 7060. The Ocean State Coalition (OSC) is in favor of passage of H 7060 with the request of two 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 OSC would ask that the legislation is amended by removing “includes a meal” and adding “includes one or more items ordered from a restaurant’s menu” while keeping the exclusion of snacks. We felt that meal is a too vague a term and some items like a salad or calamari 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 OSC 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.

Best regards,
Rick Simone
Founder – Ocean State Coalition