

## **Dawn Huntley**

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**From:** Pratik Amin <aminpratik@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
**Subject:** OPPOSE - H6333

Dear Members of the House Municipal Government & Housing Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 6333, which would authorize the Town of Scituate to issue a total of three Class A liquor licenses, representing an increase from their current authorization.

I respectfully urge you to consider the following concerns regarding this proposed legislation:

### **Undermines Established Population-Based Licensing Framework**

Rhode Island's current licensing system establishes clear population-based ratios for Class A licenses (one per 6,000 inhabitants for larger communities, one per 4,000 for smaller communities under 20,000). This framework exists to ensure appropriate market balance and prevent oversaturation. Creating population-independent exceptions, as proposed for Scituate, sets a concerning precedent that could undermine the integrity of this carefully constructed system.

### **Lack of Demonstrated Need**

The bill provides no evidence or justification for why Scituate requires an additional Class A license beyond what the population-based formula would allow. Without clear documentation of unmet consumer demand or unique circumstances, this appears to be an arbitrary expansion that lacks proper policy foundation.

### **Precedent for Future Exceptions**

Approving this exception could open the door for similar requests from other municipalities seeking to bypass established licensing limits. This could lead to a piecemeal dismantling of the current regulatory framework and create an uneven playing field across different communities.

### **Regional Market Impact**

Scituate borders several other communities, and additional licenses could significantly impact the broader regional marketplace. The current population-based system helps ensure balanced distribution of licenses across interconnected geographic areas. Disrupting this balance in one community can have ripple effects on neighboring areas.

### **Regulatory Consistency**

Good governance requires consistent application of established rules and standards. Making exceptions without compelling justification weakens the rule of law and creates uncertainty for all businesses operating under the current regulatory framework.

I encourage the committee to request specific documentation from Scituate regarding:

- Demonstrated consumer demand that cannot be met by existing licensed establishments
- Economic impact studies showing the need for additional licenses

- Analysis of how this increase aligns with public health and safety considerations
- Justification for why the current population-based formula is insufficient

The current licensing system exists for important policy reasons, including preventing market oversaturation, maintaining orderly business development, and ensuring appropriate regulatory oversight. I respectfully urge you to vote against H 6333 unless compelling evidence is presented that clearly justifies this departure from established policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns. I appreciate your commitment to thoughtful governance and look forward to your careful review of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Pratik Amin