

Dawn Huntley

From: John Callaghan <bellevuewinespirits@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2026 10:29 AM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: OPPOSE - H8231

[You don't often get email from bellevuewinespirits@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

John Callaghan
Bellevue Wine and Spirits
181 Bellevue Ave
Newport, RI 02840

H8231 - OPPOSE

Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee,

House Bill 8231 undermines Rhode Island's population-based liquor license system—a critical public safety safeguard that limits alcohol access and prevents over-saturation. These ratios are designed to reduce underage access, impaired driving, and alcohol-related harm. By allowing Scituate to exceed these limits, the bill sets a dangerous precedent for similar carve-outs statewide, eroding a consistent regulatory framework.

For independent retailers, this creates unfair competition and devalues existing licenses built on scarcity and stability. Alcohol is not an ordinary commodity—it demands thoughtful control. Weakening population-based limits risks both public safety and the integrity of Rhode Island's three-tier system.

I respectfully urge you to oppose H8231.

Sent from my iPhone