

## Dawn Huntley

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**From:** Norman Hale <NormHale@marketbeerwinespirits.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2026 1:15 PM  
**To:** House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
**Subject:** OPPOSE - H8231

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Norman Hale-Market Beer Wine Spirits: 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.

Norm Hale  
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