

Dawn Huntley

From: SALIBA <johnstonfinewine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:55 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: OPPOSE - H8231

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Name:
Business:
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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.

In addition I would like to say,

Dear Members of the Licensing Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed issuance of three new liquor licenses in the Town of Scituate.

The addition of these licenses would be detrimental to the existing liquor stores that have long served our community, and neighboring towns. Over the past several years, many of these businesses have already experienced a significant decline in sales. The introduction of additional, unnecessary competition in an already struggling market will only worsen these conditions.

Many of the current establishments are small, family-owned businesses that have worked tirelessly to remain open, especially during challenging economic times. Granting more licenses at this point could very likely force some of these owners to close their doors permanently. This would not only harm the business owners themselves, but also negatively impact local employment and the character of our community.

I respectfully urge the Board to take these concerns into serious consideration before making a decision. Supporting existing businesses that have demonstrated long-term commitment to Scituate and surrounding areas should be a priority.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Saliba
Johnston Fine Wine and Spirits
2951 Hartford Ave