

Government Affairs Committee

Friday January 12, 2024

11:30am-12:30pm

Final end time: 12:00pm

Attendance: Emma Arian (VBA), Hannah Goldman (VBA), Jessica Oski (Necrason), Matt Wilson (Chair), Avery Schwenk, Terry Thompson, Jack Droppa, Chris Kesler, Paul Sayler, Bob Montgomery, Shaun Hill, Kara Pawlusiak.

1. Jessica Oski Update -

- a. First full week of session, second half of biannual.
- b. Some really pressing issues in front of the legislature this year, Floods, School taxes, declining federal funds, housing and public safety.
- c. Jessica talked to Matt Byron - Committee might have a hearing to start getting organized as what they have been doing in the past - all the bills related to alcohol committee will choose what goes through the omnibus
- d. VBA is interested in Happy hour Bill - Byron said probably won't happen but can still make our case. Opportunity to speak to provisions in the bill.

e. **New Bills this year -**

i. **Toxic Chemicals in packaging**

1. This bill would impact the definition of packaging - any container providing a means of marketing protecting or handling the product. Unsealed receptacles. example - cans, labels, case trays, quad packs - will need to look more deeply into that bill
2. Jessica thinks Bill might not be going anywhere this year.
3. Membership perspective on bill: Matt thinks we should keep a close eye on it because it will have a big impact on our industry.
4. Jessica will keep an eye out and if there is any sense of it moving she will let us know.
5. Prohibiting packaging that contains chemicals - not prohibiting plastic, just some chemicals in some plastics.

ii. **H.643** - Allow any combinations of 1,2,3 class licenses, to sell containers of alcoholic beverages for off premise consumption on the licensed premises.

1. Matt Byron thinks it would benefit the manufacturer - right now requires 4th class. Many breweries have first class licenses that would allow them to sell for off premise consumption on 1st, 2nd or 3rd licensed premises.

iii. **H. 662 - Short Form Bill** - Sponsored by two republicans from Newport area, bill would allow two or more license entities who have merged and form a parent corporation but maintain two separate licenses under one payroll and parent company.

- iv. **H.680** - Any retail establishment to allow special venue permit from art gallery, etc, to "retail store" for a limited period of time, one day one event, instead of book store to retail establishment. Any store could get a special venue serving permit.
 - 1. Matt - seems like a slippery slope slack of oversight and training for events at any stores.
 - 2. Great for events and retailers but feels like something that sounds great but could cause more concerns with safety and opportunities with members.
 - a. Jessica - says there does not seem to be any training requiring service with the permit
- v. **H.726** - Bill would require DLL to perform regular compliance checks to alcohol beverage licenses
 - a. Section 589 (sale to minor) - compliance checks for 1,2,3 licenses.
 - b. Comes with appropriations of 200k.
- f. VBA Lead Witness - (Matt Wilson) start thinking about testimony around the happy hour bill.
 - i. This committee does not have the min wage bill before them, but does have the happy hour bill, testimony should mention rationale and support for the happy hour bill.
 - 1. Jessica said Happy hour bill is likely dead but omnibus bill starts to take shape we will be invited to testimony and can encourage any bill that's on their wall that includes liquor and that would be the time to add happy to the omnibus bill. It's still alive and it's a bill and there is an option for the committee that would align with us or be convinced by our strong testimony about it.
- 2. Matt asks the committee if there is any concern from bills from last session - no one raised any concern from any 2023 Bills.
- 3. Matt asks Jessica to get more clarity on toxic chemicals in packaging bills - High importance to membership.
 - a. The law prohibits BPA and PFAS - relates to packaging of food products, this bill is about packaging of any kind passed in 2022.
 - b. If suppliers can't provide a reasonable alternative then what is the window of opportunity to continue to use old packaging?
 - i. Dept of Health - has to determine alternatives before enforcing prohibition.
 - ii. At this point it's more legal advice than lobbying
 - iii. Jessica suggests talking to an attorney in regards to how it affects our industry.
 - 1. Potentially linking in the environmental committee, Matt wants to prioritize that - Emma to loop in Matt.
- 4. Final thoughts? No committee response.

5. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.