



Business & Professions Subcommittee

**Wednesday, January 21, 2015
2:00PM
12 HOB**

ACTION PACKET

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Business & Professions Subcommittee

1/21/2015 2:00:00PM

Location: 12 HOB

Summary: No Bills Considered

Committee meeting was reported out: Thursday, January 22, 2015 8:38:38AM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Business & Professions Subcommittee

1/21/2015 2:00:00PM

Location: 12 HOB

Attendance:

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Halsey Beshears (Chair)	X		
Larry Ahern	X		
Bryan Avila	X		
Dwight Dudley	X		
Heather Fitzenhagen	X		
Joseph Geller	X		
Julio Gonzalez	X		
Chris Latvala	X		
Scott Plakon	X		
Rene Plasencia	X		
Kevin Rader	X		
Darryl Rouson	X		
Carlos Trujillo	X		
Totals:	13	0	0

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Business & Professions Subcommittee

1/21/2015 2:00:00PM

Location: 12 HOB

Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances:

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Mitchell Rubin (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Florida Beer Wholesalers Association
Executive Director
215 S. Monroe St. #340
Tallahassee FL 32301
Phone: 850-224-2337

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Eric Criss (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Beer Industry of Florida
President
110 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee FL 32301

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Josh Aubuchon (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Florida Brewers Guild
Executive Director/General Counsel
319 S. Calhoun St.
Tallahassee FL 32301
Phone: 850-224-7000

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Nathan Stonecipher (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Green Bench Brewing
Owner
1133 Baum Ave. N.
St. Petersburg FL 33705
Phone: 727-214-4863

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Mike Halker (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Florida Brewers Guild
Owner, Due South Brewing Co.
2900 High Ridge Rd. #3.1
Boynton Beach FL 33426
Phone: 561-707-1253

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Bryon Burroughs (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Proof Brewing Co.
Owner
644 McDonnell Dr.
Tallahassee FL 32310
Phone: 850-443-6757

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Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances: (continued)

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Susan Pitman (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Substance Abuse Prevention, Health & Safety
Executive Director
2010 Forbes St.
Jacksonville FL 32204
Phone: 904-374-9145

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Scott Ashley (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Wine & Spirits Distributors of Florida, Inc.
President & General Counsel
215 S. Monroe St., #800-A
Tallahassee FL 32301
Phone: 850-681-8700

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Steven Becker (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Southern Wine & Spirits
Executive Vice President & Treasurer
P.O. Box 699036
Miami FL 33269
Phone: 305-625-4171

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Jason Unger (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Gray Robinson; Target; Distillers Guild, Restaurant Depot
301 S. Bronough St.
Tallahassee FL
Phone: 850-577-9090

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Scott Dick (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Florida Independent Spirits Association
Lobbyist
210 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee FL 32301
Phone: 850-421-9100

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Charles Bailes (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
ABC Fine Wine & Spirits
C.E.O.
8989 S. Orange Ave.
Orlando FL 32824
Phone: 407-851-0000 x 2323

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Location: 12 HOB

Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances: (continued)

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Philip McDaniel - Information Only

St. Augustine Distillery

112 Riberia St.

St. Augustine FL

Phone: 904-806-1440

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

John Giotis - Information Only

Florida Council for Safe Communities

Chairman

851 Bayway Blvd., Yacht House Unit 103

Clearwater Beach FL 33767

Phone: 908-642-9958

Discussion of Alcoholic Beverage Issues

Jose Gonzalez - Information Only

Anheuser-Busch

VP State Affairs

P.O. Box 836

Tallahassee FL 32302

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HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL
REGULATION

Mitch Rubin, Executive Director

HISTORICAL VICES



SOCIETAL PROBLEMS THAT LED TO PROHIBITION



- Tied-houses
- Excessive promotion
- Overconsumption

FLORIDA'S THREE-TIER SYSTEM

- License the private sector
- Prohibit tied-houses
 - Credit sales
 - Consignment sales
 - Expensive equipment
 - Shelf space
- Impose high taxes
- Enforce regulations (DABT)



PUBLIC POLICY BENEFITS

- More accountability for product in market
- More local businesses in all tiers
- More access to market for small brewers
- More level playing field for small retailers
- More choice and variety for consumers

FLORIDA DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS

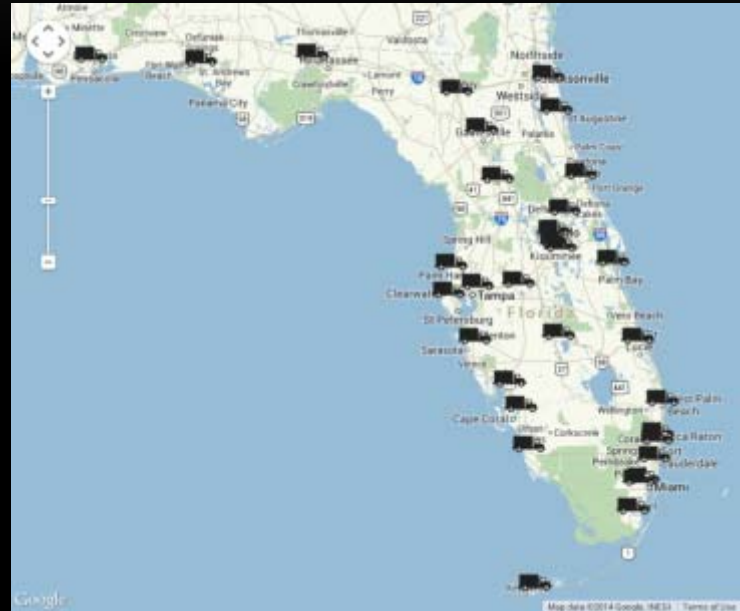


Distribution
Progressive



DISTRIBUTOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- 125 beer distributors
- 8,000 employees
- \$580 million in wages and salaries
- \$74 million in capital investment each year,
- \$3 billion total economic impact from operations
- Over 1,500 beer brands
- Servicing 44,000 retailers
- \$248 million in state excise taxes paid on beer



DISTRIBUTOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Detailed sales reporting to DOR for sales tax enforcement
- Obligation to report excise tax violations
- Civic and charitable activities
 - \$134 million to private school vouchers
 - Prevention education programs
 - Retailer server training
 - Emergency services -- medicine and water

Not to mention: property taxes, sales taxes, licenses, registration and tag fees

DELIVERING
OVER 1,500
BRANDS TO
FLORIDA



WAREHOUSES



DELIVERY



LINE CLEANING AND PRODUCT SAFETY



SALES, MERCHANDISING, AND PRODUCT ROTATION



MARKETING AND BRANDING



ADVERTISING



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



CONSUMER TASTINGS



LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY ISSUES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- Growlers
- Tourism structure exception
- Self-distribution
- Contract termination

GROWLER LEGISLATION



- Define "Growler"
- Designate 32, 64 and 128 ounces
- Require seals and labels

WHAT ARE EXCLUSIVE TERRITORIES?

1. Agreement
2. Brand
3. Assigned territory



WHAT IS BEER RELATIONS LAW?

SECTION 563.022:

- Assuring distributor free to manage its business enterprise, including the distributor's right to independently establish its selling prices;
- Assuring the manufacturer and the public of service from a distributor who will devote reasonable efforts and resources and maintain a satisfactory sales level; and
- Establishing and maintaining an orderly system of distribution of beer to the public.

ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR TERMINATION: *GOOD CAUSE*

- Failure of reasonable efforts
- Insolvency
- Suspension or revocation of license
- Felony conviction
- Fraudulent conduct by the distributor
- Selling product outside the distributor's territory
- Failing to pay for manufacturer's products

UNACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR TERMINATION

- Acquisition of a competing brewer's brands
- Retaliatory action for a complaint alleging violation of state or federal law
- Capital restructure
- Transfer to next generation

PUBLIC POLICY BENEFITS

- Promote local family-owned businesses
- Promote access to market for small brewers
- Provide small brewers with more sweat equity & personal services
- Promote distribution of more brands
- Provide more choice and selection for consumers
- Promote compliance with law

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SELF DISTRIBUTION

- Lack of transparency to regulator
- Cherry picking large accounts
- Handling product rotation
- Handling product returns
- Adverse effects on brand building and service patterns-- marketing, advertising, line cleaning
- Finger pointing
- Distributor not motivated to fully invest because doesn't have right to its full sweat & personal services equity

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- SECTION 561.221 (2): Tourism Structures
“which property shall include a brewery and such other structures which promote the brewery and the tourist industry of the state.”



Florida Beer



WHOLESALE ASSOCIATION

STATE-BASED ALCOHOL REGULATION IN FLORIDA

By Eric Criss, President
Beer Industry of Florida, Inc
January 21, 2015



Index

1. About Beer Industry of Florida
2. Alcohol Deregulation
3. Why Regulate?
4. Three-Tier
5. Brewer Retail Privileges
6. Limited Self-Distribution with Volume Cap
7. Distributor Independence
8. Summary



Sampling of Brands & Suppliers



Alcohol Deregulation

Deregulatory Pressures in U.S.

- Large format retailers; wineries; distilleries; small breweries seeking exceptions to state laws and regulations
- Litigation
- Illegal direct shipping of alcohol



Deregulatory Efforts in Florida

- Unrestricted Brewery Sales At Retail
- Brewery Self Distribution
- Exceptions to Franchise Law



Why Regulate? To Reduce Alcohol Harm

Business of selling alcohol tied to public health impact of alcohol.

- CDC estimates **79,000 deaths** occur due to alcohol annually. That is far more than the the number of brave men and women we lost in Afghanistan and Iraq combined
- Despite progress on underage drinking, it is still unacceptably high. Alcohol is a causal factor in crime, domestic violence and other social problems.
- In 2010, **10,228** people died and **345,000** were injured from drunk driving crashes.



Why Regulate?



1. Alcohol is Different!
2. Discounts and promotions to retain and increase **frequency** of use by existing loyal customers, whether flowers, coffee, etc.
3. Market research to gain new customers who have a special **affinity** for your products and services, followed by discounts and promotions.
4. Targeting those who have not yet discovered your product or service with advertising and promotion.



Why Regulate?

Scholarly Research

1. Harvard University, "College Alcohol Study," The Harvard School of Public Health.

- Conducted 4 national surveys involving over 14,000 students at 120 four-year colleges in 40 states in 1993, 1997, 1999, and 2001.
- In addition, CAS colleges with high levels of heavy alcohol use were resurveyed in 2005. CAS has been supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

1. "Alcohol, No Ordinary Commodity."

- Published by the World Health Organization



Why Regulate?

Scholarly Research

1. University of Florida study “Effects of beverage alcohol price and tax levels on drinking: a meta-analysis of 1003 estimates from 112 studies.”
 - Authors: Alexander C. Wagenaar, Matthew J. Salois & Kelli A. Komro, University of Florida, College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Health Policy Research.
 - Published in the journal *Addiction*.
2. University of North Carolina study: “Internet Alcohol Sales to Minors.”
 - Rebecca S. Williams, MHS, PhD; Kurt M. Ribisl, PhD
 - Published in the journal *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, a monthly peer-reviewed journal for physicians another other health care professionals who contribute to the health of children and adolescents.



What is Three-Tier?

- The term “Three-tier” is shorthand for a system that prevents alcohol manufacturers from also being distributors and retailers.
- Why not vertically integrate and collapse the tiers? Because public health is least likely to be compromised with a face-to-face transaction conducted by a neutral, third party vendor (age verification, access and availability, consumer choice, deep discounting) with no direct economic interest in the manufacturing or distribution.
- We do have exceptions to the three-tier system.
- **Threshold question:** Is it appropriate to regulate alcohol?



Brewer Retail Privileges

BIF opposes unlimited retail privileges for brewers.

- Currently small brewers are able to operate the same as an Outback Steakhouse.
- Creates economic disincentive for retailers to carry craft beers that are competing with them or cannot meet retailer demand.
- Potentially destructive of the three-tier system due to ability of brewers to fully operate in two tiers: manufacturing and retailing. It could also be argued the state is providing preferential treatment to consumers for in-state retailers.



Limited Self Distribution

- Oppose any form of self-distribution until DBPR or the legislature addresses the issue of unlimited retail sales by manufacturers of beer.
- If retail question addressed Beer Industry of Florida willing to have a conversation about limited self distribution with a volume-cap.
- Limited self distribution, in our view, and in many states, means
 - Volume cap of 5,000-10,000 barrels.
 - No retroactivity.
 - A brewer may either self-distribute or contract with distributors but not both.
- Negative: Growing brewers are likely to come back and regularly ask to increase the cap. Moreover, they will be operating in all three tiers.
- Positive: Small brewers get flexibility to distribute their own brands.



Franchise Law

BIF opposes exceptions to Florida Franchise Law.

- Destructive of Three Tier System because such a law could be vulnerable to a dormant commerce clause challenge, particularly if production limits are raised to the point where effectively all in-state brewers are exempt and large out-of-state brewers are not.

- Unfair to Distributors who make millions of dollars in capital investments in trucks, personnel, marketing, sales and promotions. Distributors assume the financial risk that brands will succeed.



Franchise Law

Distributor Independence

"I'm loyal to my wholesalers," A-B InBev North American president Luiz Edmond told the Wall Street Journal in March. "Why would I not expect the same loyalty to me?" (Luis Edmond, St. Louis Post Dispatch, 5/6/2012)

- Franchise exception strikes at the heart of distributor independence.

- Makes **small brewers** more vulnerable to the whims of large brewers.



Summary

We Support

- Preserving Florida's state-based alcohol regulatory system.
- 64 ounce containers.
- Well-defined, limited exception for brewers to sell directly to consumers at retail.

We Oppose

- Broad deregulation of alcohol.
- Erosion of distributor independence through franchise law exception.
- Elimination of face-to-face transaction for the purchase of alcohol.
- Unrestricted "tied houses" – that is retailers that are owned or controlled in part or whole by brewers.
- We oppose any manner of self distribution until the question of brewer retail privileges is resolved.



Key Points

1. The biggest problem we hear from small brewers that testified before this committee was that they couldn't make enough beer to keep up with demand. That's a capital problem – not a regulatory or legal problem. That is not your job to fix.
2. The existing legal and regulatory framework, has permitted the rapid growth of small brewers. The current system, including franchise law, helps small brewers. It does not harm them.





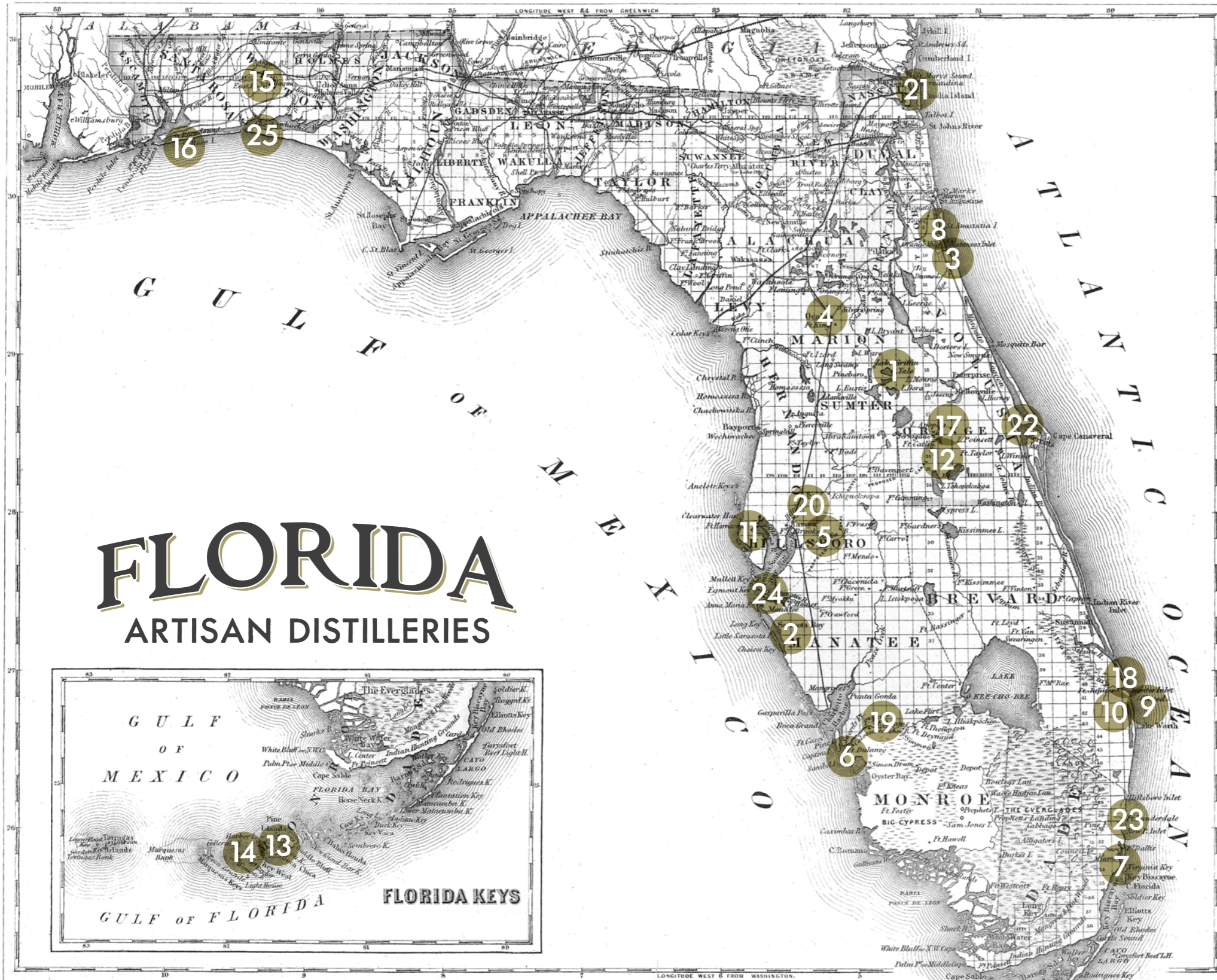
Beer Industry of Florida

Jason Unger
Managing Shareholder

Craft Distillers Limits on
Direct Sales to Consumers

FLORIDA

ARTISAN DISTILLERIES



FLORIDA

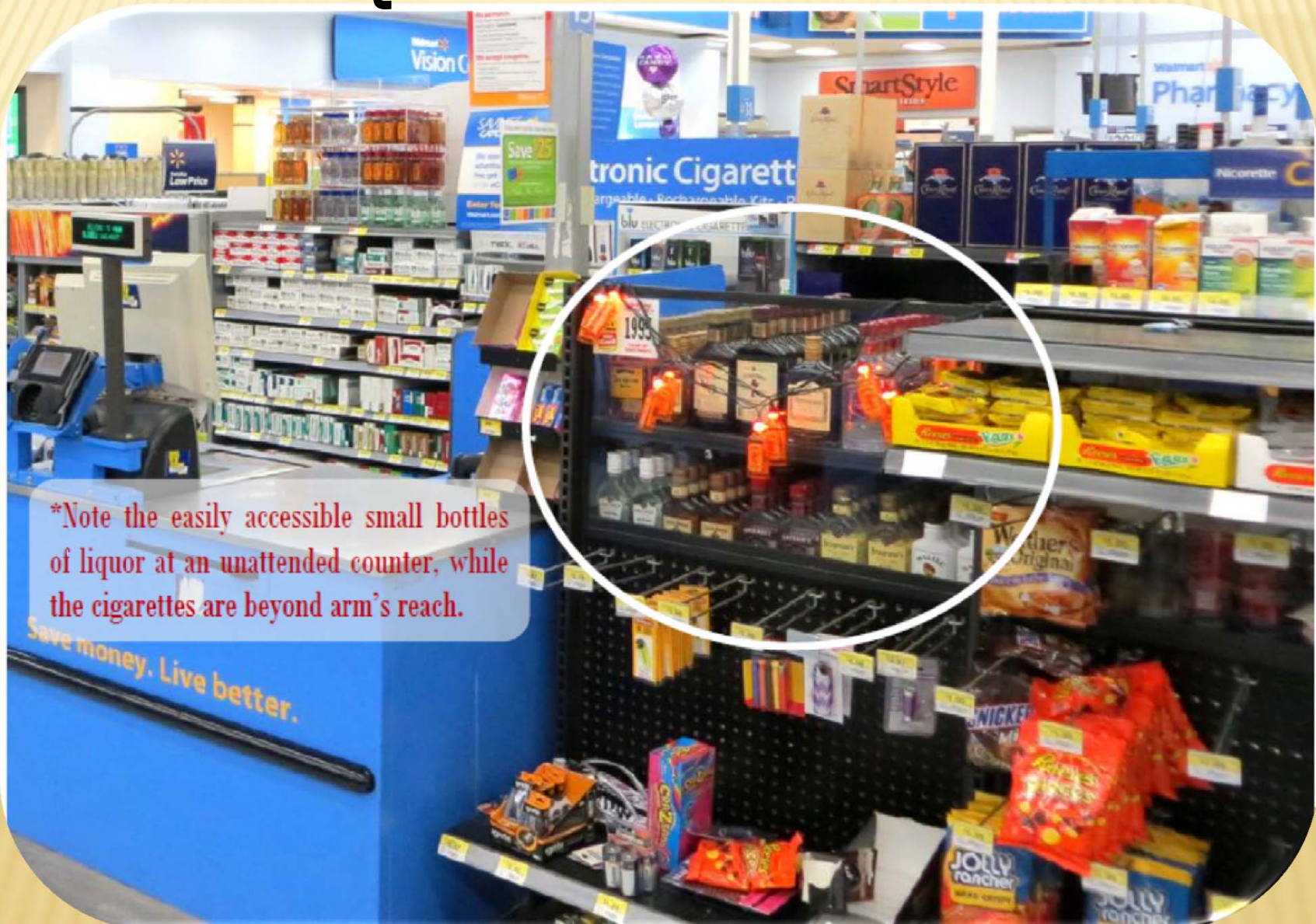
ARTISAN DISTILLERIES

- 1 Florida Farm Distillers** - Umatilla (2009)
- 2 Siesta Key Rum** - Sarasota (2009)
- 3 Flagler Distillery** - Palm Coast (2011)
- 4 Fish Hawk Spirits** - Ocala (2012)
- 5 The Florida CANE Distillery** - Tampa (2012)
- 6 Wicked Dolphin Distillery** - Cape Coral (2012)
- 7 Alchemist Distilleries, Inc.** - Miami (2013)
- 8 St. Augustine Distillery** - St. Augustine (2013)
- 9 Black Coral Rum - Riviera Beach (2014)
- 10 Citrus Distillers, LLC.** - Riviera Beach (2014)
- 11 Cotherman Distilling Co.** - Dunedin (2014)
- 12 JLA Distillery - Orlando (2014)
- 13 Key West Distilling** - Key West (2014)
- 14 Key West Legal Rum - Key West (2014)
- 15 Peaden Brothers Distillery - Crestview (2014)
- 16 Rollins Distillery** - Gulf Breeze (2014)
- 17 Winter Park Distilling** - Winter Park (2014)
- 18 Bahama Bank Rum - Jupiter (2015) †
- 19 Curator's Reserve - Fort Myers (2015) †
- 20 Florida Spirits - Tampa (2015) †
- 21 Marlin and Barrel Distillery** - Fernandina Beach (2015) †
- 22 Playalinda Distilling** - Titusville (2015) †
- 23 South Florida Distillers Inc. - Fort Lauderdale (2015) †
- 24 St. Petersburg Distillery - Saint Petersburg (2015) †
- 25 Timber Creek Distillery** - Destin (2015) †

** Members of the Florida Craft Distillers Guild

† Currently under construction

LEGISLATURE TO FACE DANGEROUS LIQUOR LEGISLATION



**Note the easily accessible small bottles of liquor at an unattended counter, while the cigarettes are beyond arm's reach.*

Alcohol Sales State by State

State	Control vs. License	Beer Sold in Grocery Stores	Wine Sold in Grocery Stores	Spirits Sold in Grocery Stores	Beer Sold in Gas or Convenience	Wine Sold in Gas or Convenience	Spirits Sold in Gas or Convenience
Alabama	C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Alaska	L	No	No	No	No	No	No
Arizona	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
California	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Connecticut	L	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Delaware	L	No	No	No	No	No	No
District of Columbia	L	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Florida	L	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	L	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hawaii	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	C	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	No
Illinois	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	L	Yes	Yes	No ²	Yes	Yes	No
Iowa	C	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kansas	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Kentucky	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine	C	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maryland	L	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Michigan	C	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Mississippi	C	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Missouri	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Nebraska	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New Hampshire	C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
New Jersey	L	No*	No*	No*	No	No	No
New Mexico	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
North Carolina	C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Dakota	L	Yes	Yes	Yes ³	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	C	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	L	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Oregon	C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	C	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	L	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	L	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
South Dakota	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	L	Yes **	Yes ***	No	Yes **	No	No
Texas	L	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Utah	C	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Vermont	C	Yes	Yes	No ⁴	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia	C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Washington	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
West Virginia	C	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	L	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	C	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Total		45	36	21	42	33	14

* Grocery stores can hold up to full alcohol licenses

** 5% ABW or less only

*** Will allow sales in starting in 2016

¹There are a handful of contract stores that may also sell groceries

²There can be a separate liquor store within a grocery store provided it has a separate entrance and no minor are allowed inside

³Grocery stores, gas stations, and supermarkets may carry all forms of liquor, but only if the liquor is rung up in a separate enclosed part of the store

⁴Agency stores may be located within a grocery stores, but the grocery store is not selling spirits itself

Source; The Beer Institute, 2010; updated by ABL, 2015

THE CURRENT SITUATION

- Florida law restricts hard liquor sales to a store that sells liquor and related products like mixers, party supplies and equipment, and tobacco.
- Florida law also limits and controls direct access to liquor stores by requiring customers to enter through a separate door facing the outside.
- These restrictions exist primarily to control access to hard liquor by minors.

CURRENT LAW



Foremost Liquors & Wines, Middleburg, FL

ABC Fine Wine & Spirits, Tallahassee, FL

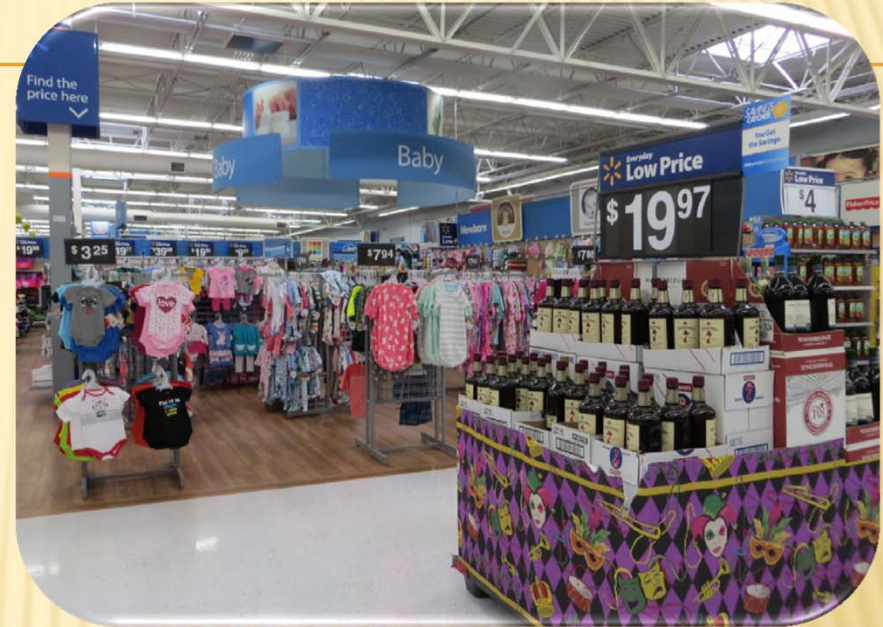
CURRENT LAW



EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE COULD SEE IN FLORIDA



Rouses Supermarket,
Slidell, Louisiana
January 10, 2015



Wal-Mart Supercenter,
Slidell, Louisiana
January 10, 2015



*Note the easily accessible small bottles of liquor at an unattended counter, while the cigarettes are beyond arm's reach.

Wal-Mart Supercenter, Slidell, Louisiana January 10, 2015

-
- Independent liquor stores already compete while complying with all applicable laws and regulations.
 - Publix (187),
 - Winn-Dixie (145),
 - ABC (139),
 - Walgreens (124),
 - Sam's Club (45),
 - Wal-mart (79, plus 27 licenses in escrow)

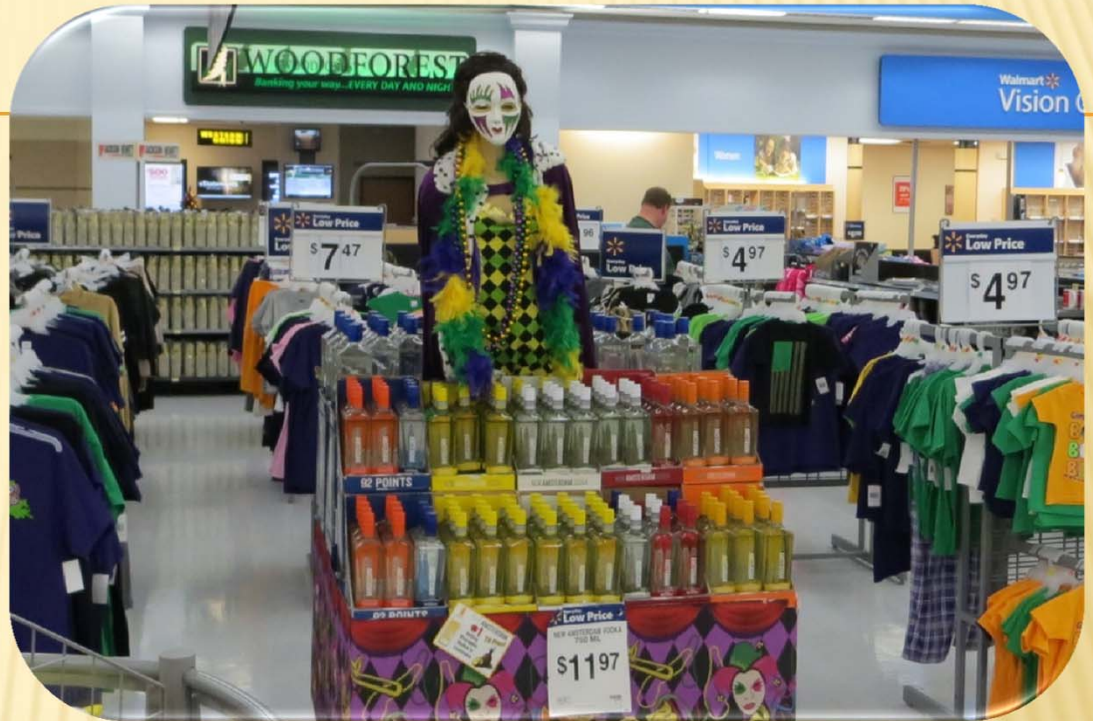
Source: Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco

***“We’re putting
hard liquor in
our stores
where we can,”***

says John Westling, Wal-Mart's
Senior VP for Non-Perishable Food.

***“This is an area
where we are
focused on
growing sales...”***

“Hard Stuff: A Sober Wal-Mart Launches
Drive Into Tricky Area: Liquor.” *The Wall
Street Journal*, August 17, 2005).



***“Wal-Mart has said that it
aims to double its alcohol
sales by 2016...”***

Wall Street Journal, July 8, 2014

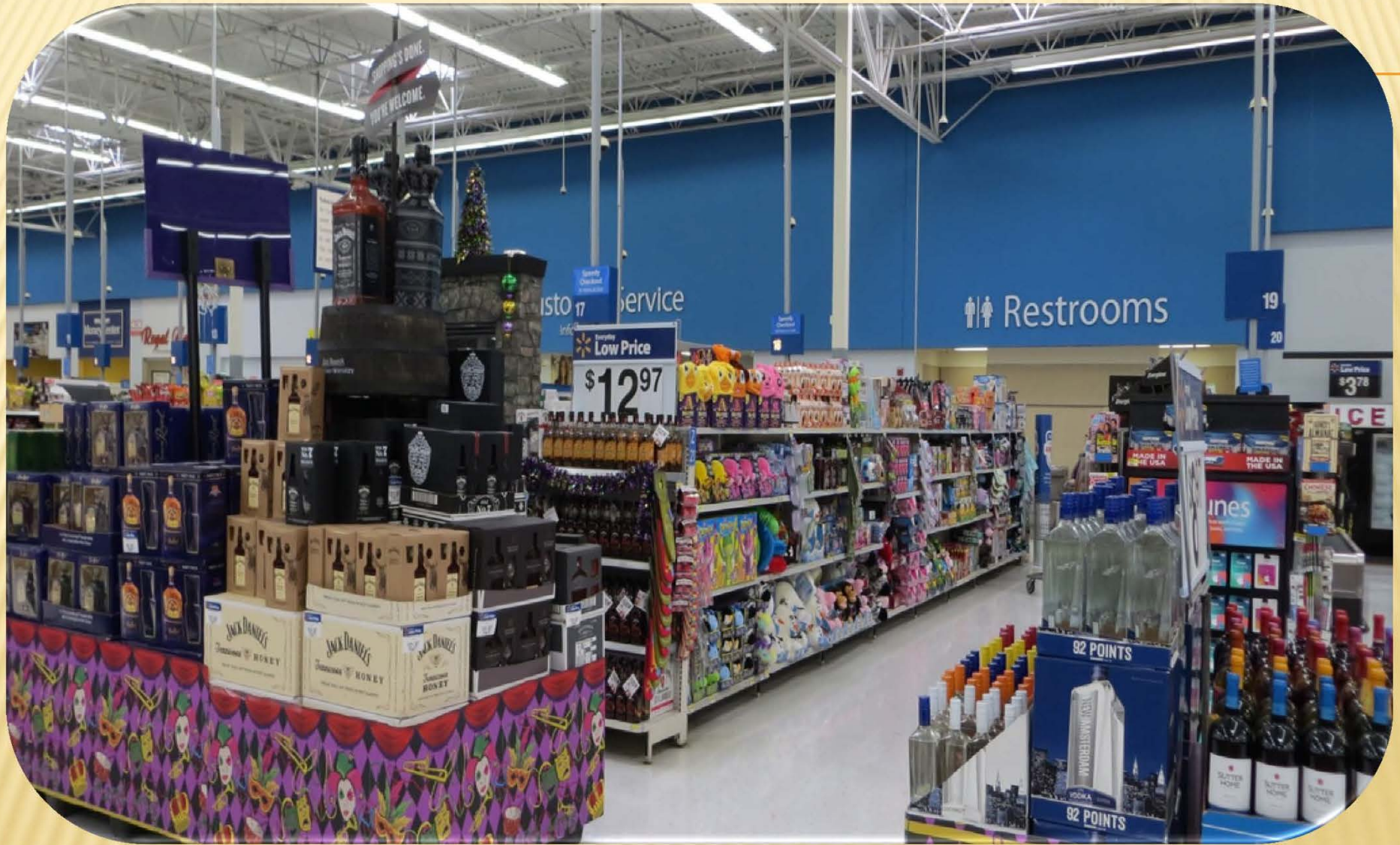
➤ When minors enter a liquor store, they immediately stand out from customers of legal age. **THEY STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB!**

When a minor enters a Wal-mart or similar business, they are welcome customers.



Walgreens Liquors-Corner of Monroe St. & Tennessee St. Tallahassee

➤ Easy access to hard liquor is an “attractive nuisance” for minors that will translate into the potential for theft or illegal consumption on the retailer’s premises



Wal-mart Supercenter, Slidell, Louisiana, January 10, 2015

US CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH CIRCUIT

- Earlier this year, the Sixth Circuit court, (Kentucky) ruled that the state indisputably maintains a legitimate interest in reducing access to products with high alcohol content.”
- The “drink equivalent” is sometimes used as a rationale for selling all forms of alcohol wherever low alcohol content products are sold. Proponents argue that treating alcohol products differently amounts to discrimination and that the source of alcohol should not make a difference. But common sense and science suggests otherwise. If a product has a higher concentration of alcohol, it is easier to abuse. If the objective is to “get drunk”, it’s quicker with a potent product. Unfortunately, surveys show that underage drinking is mostly binge drinking and that kids are primarily interested in intoxication.

HEADLINES

“Teen Shoplifting, Liquor a Bad Mix”

The Olympian, December 9, 2012

“Washington: Spirited Away-Retailers See Surprisingly High Rate of Liquor Theft”

Yakima Herald, June 9, 2014

“Shoplifting Incidents Rise With Liquor Privatization”

The Daily News, January 26, 2013

“Minors Stealing More Hard Liquor, But Beer and Wine Thefts Are Down”

Seattle Weekly News, April 1, 2013

“Liquor Theft Among Teens May Be On The Rise”

My Northwest, December 10, 2012

“LIQUOR PRIVATIZATION IN WASHINGTON BAD FOR YOUTHS, NEW STUDY SAYS

Alcohol Privatization: 1 Year Later

May 2012 and before...



June 2012 and after...



Studying the Impact of Washington State Initiatives
Linda Becker, PhD and Julia Dilley, PhD MES, February 19, 2014

WASHINGTON STATE AFTERMATH

“Hard alcohol is the new candy,”

says Sgt. Kelly Willard,
Yakima Police Department

“After passage local chains and big-box retailers have made liquor too accessible to would-be juvenile shoplifters,”

says Wayne Graham, Thurston County
Juvenile Prosecutor

“We have definitely seen an increase of thefts of hard alcohol from the stores, especially by juveniles more than likely because hard liquor was not made readily available to juveniles prior to the passage of the new law”

says Jen Kolb, Tumwater Police Detective

WASHINGTON STATE AFTERMATH

- Olympia Police Chief Ronnie Roberts spoke to the Senate about public safety issues raised by liquor thefts at retailers, including teens
- “Most concerning is the risk to our youth who now have even greater access to hard alcohol replacing consumption of lower alcoholic beverages like beer.”

FLORIDA LIQUOR - A CLASS ALL IT'S OWN

- There are over 30,000 beer and wine licenses in Florida, with NO limit on issuance by population
- That's NOT the case with hard liquor
- Florida law currently allows one retail liquor license for every 7,500 residents per county, (approximately 5,200 licenses statewide)

EMPLOYED MINORS ACCESS TO HARD LIQUOR

- 18 years is the minimum age to work in retail liquor stores.
- Most employ 21 years of age or older
- Persons under 18 years of age can be employed in drug stores, grocery stores, department stores, florists, specialty gift shops, or automobile service stations.
- Many 16 year olds work in grocery and similar stores.

**NO COMPELLING
ARGUMENT TO CHANGE
FLORIDA'S LICENSING
SYSTEM**

SPIRITS ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS OF LEGAL AGE 21 YEARS OR OLDER

