



COLORADO
Department of Revenue
Specialized Business Group—
Liquor & Tobacco

Physical Address:
1707 Cole Blvd., Ste. 300
Lakewood, CO 80401

Mailing Address:
Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division
P.O. Box 17087
Denver, CO 80217-0087

Summary of Proposed Topics for Voting by the LAG

Disclaimer: These are the proposed votes from the Liquor Advisory Group, but the General Assembly is the final decision maker for any subsequent statutory changes.

Pursuant to the LAG Charter, the report to the General Assembly is to include “a final assessment of the LAG’s level of support for a recommendation, option, or idea will be conducted publicly and recorded in the special report. The recommendations or options considered, level of agreement for each recommendation or option, and a summary of the rationale for both supportive and dissenting views. Interim feedback on specific topics, options or alternatives may be provided throughout the process.”

Below is a summary of proposals from LAG Subgroups for consideration and vote by the LAG. The language of each proposal may be amended by the LAG group members during the discussion prior to a vote of the LAG. The proposals and votes will be included in the LAG Report.

Date of Vote: April 6, 2023

Regulation of Retail Operations Subgroup

Proposal 1: Remove Mandatory Christmas Day Closure from Statute

Current Statutory Language

44-3-901(6) It is unlawful for any person licensed to sell at retail pursuant to this article 3 or article 4 of this title 44;

(b) To sell, serve, or distribute any malt, vinous, or spirituous liquors at any other time other than the following:

(II) In sealed containers, beginning at 8 a.m. until 12 midnight each day; except that no malt, vinous, or spirituous liquors shall be sold, served, or distributed in a sealed container on Christmas day.

(c) To sell fermented malt beverages:

(I) To any person under the age of twenty-one years, except as provided in section 18-13-122;

(II) To any person between the hours of 12 midnight and 8 a.m.; or

(III) In a sealed container on Christmas day;

Proposal from Subgroup

- The existing prohibition under 44-3-901(6)(b)(II), and (6)(c)(III), C.R.S., that prevents licensed retailers from selling alcohol beverages in sealed containers on Christmas day will be struck from statute.

Proposal 2: New Statute to Allow Off-Premises Retailers to Offer Educational Classes

Current Statutory Language:

None.

Proposal from Subgroup

- Create a new statute under title 44, article 3 that will give off-premises retailers the ability to hold classes in an education setting with the following guardrails:
 - The size of an individual sample will not exceed one (1) ounce of malt or vinous liquor or one-half (½) of one ounce of spirituous liquor, with the total amount of alcohol served during these educational classes not to exceed a set volume, which will allow more samples of different products.
 - A nominal fee can be charged for the classes.
 - Prohibit educational class members from participating in any tasting events on the licensed premises as a public safety priority. A licensee shall implement a means of tracking how many samples each patron is provided, which may include the use of a wristband, or other means of accurately tracking individual patron consumption.
- Additional statutory language will provide the Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division with rulemaking authority.

Proposal 3: Soft Close for Last Call

Current Statutory Language

44-3-901(6) It is unlawful for any person licensed to sell at retail pursuant to this article 3 or article 4 of this title 44;

(b) To sell, serve, or distribute any malt, vinous, or spirituous liquors at any other time other than the following:

(I) For consumption on the premises on any day of the week, except between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Proposal from Subgroup

- Amend the existing statutory language under 44-3-901(6)(b)(I), C.R.S., to give businesses the ability to be open until four a.m. with last call beginning at or around two a.m. At the time of last call, consumers would be allowed to place one final drink order and then finish their drink inside the establishment until closing no later than four a.m.
- Statutory language would prohibit businesses to sell or provide alcohol after 2:00 a.m.
- Additional statutory language will provide the Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division with rulemaking authority.

Marketplace Structure Subgroup

Proposal 4: Wholesaler Trade Shows

Current Statutory Language:

None.

Proposal from Subgroup

- Create a new statute under 44-3-407, C.R.S. (Wholesaler statute) that will give wholesalers the ability to hold trade shows to allow liquor licensed retailers to sample products on their licensed premises in an area designated for trade shows. These events shall not be open to the general public.
 - LED suggested further revision for discussion: Limit the area for trade shows for liquor licensed retailers to an area on the licensed premises, such as a conference room or kitchen area, but specifically excluding the docking, or delivery, or warehouse storage areas of the licensed premises, and specifically excluding any sales room during any time when the sales room is open to the public.
- Additional statutory language will provide the Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division with rulemaking authority.