



Mark Meyer

State Senator • 32nd Senate District

TO: Members on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and
Military Affairs and Government Reform.
FROM: Bryan Brooks
Senator Mark Meyer
RE: Testimony on Assembly Bill 321
DATE: February 24, 2004

Thank you Chairman Brown and members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform for taking the time to hold a public hearing on AB 321.

This bill is simple legislation that would allow an unaccompanied person who has not reached the legal drinking age to enter and remain in a brewery hospitality or banquet hall that is licensed to sell alcohol. This bill does not allow a minor to consume alcoholic beverages, but simply permits them to attend an event located on a brewery premises.

Below are some bullet points regarding AB 321 that I hope you will find useful.

- Current law prevents underage guests from attending family and social gatherings at brewery banquet halls and hospitality centers.
- City Brewery in La Crosse currently operates a hospitality and banquet room which serves as a community gathering place for many social activities such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirement parties, graduation parties, weddings, etc.
- However, because they do not sell food, any person who has not reached legal drinking age is not permitted to attend events at the City Brewery Hospitality Center unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse.
- AB 321 would add banquet or hospitality room on a brewery premise to the list of current exemptions from this law. Current exemptions include: hotels, drug and grocery stores, bowling centers, indoor golf simulators, service stations, etc.
- AB 321 passed the Assembly Committee on State Affairs on an 8-1 vote, and was passed on the Assembly floor on a voice vote.





WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Jennifer Shilling
95TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

TO: Members on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and
Military Affairs and Government Reform
FROM: Representative Jennifer Shilling
RE: Testimony on Assembly Bill 321
DATE: February 24, 2004

Thank you Chairman Brown and members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform.

Representative Huebsch and I have authored Assembly Bill 321 to close a legal misstep in current statutes that prevents underage guests from attending family and social gatherings at brewery banquet halls and hospitality centers.

More and more, banquet halls that do not serve food are being built to host weddings, anniversary and retirement parties, and other special events. Additionally, many Wisconsin communities, including La Crosse, currently have breweries whose hospitality suites serve as a community-gathering place for many social activities.

However, such reception areas that do not sell food, operate under only a "Class B" Liquor License and cannot qualify for any exceptions to their liquor license. Thus, any person who has not reached legal drinking age is not permitted to attend these banquet halls with "Class B" Liquor Licenses unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse.

While commonsense would dictate that law enforcement would not arrest underage guests at such a gathering, banquet halls are being forced to enforce this clearly inadvertent lapse in State Statutes, turning away law abiding guests to what are many times important family functions, or break the law.

Under current statute, several exemptions exist to address this dilemma that businesses may face with underage persons on their premises. Exemptions exist for hotels, drug and grocery stores, bowling centers, indoor golf simulators, service stations and several others. AB 321 would add the language of a banquet or hospitality room on a brewery premise.

Assembly Bill 321 would correct this error and allow a person under the age of 21 to enter and remain in a brewery banquet hall or hospitality room that sells alcoholic beverages or to attend a brewery tour, even when they are unaccompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse. In November, the bill passed the Assembly on a voice vote.

While Assembly Bill 321 is certainly not a sweeping change to current Wisconsin law, the expedient passage of this bill would mean a lot to Wisconsin business owners and those attending important social gathering at our State's brewery banquet halls and hospitality rooms. Thank you.



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as of Thursday, March 11, 2004

2003-2004 legislative session

Legislative bills and resolutions

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Text, Sponsors and Analysis

Status and Fiscal Estimate

Lobbying Effort on this item

Assembly Bill 321

the prohibition against underage persons entering or being on any premises operating under an alcohol beverage license.

Organization		These organizations have reported lobbying on this proposal:	Place pointer on icon to display comments click icon to display prior comments		
Profile	Interests		Date Notified	Position	Comments
●	●	Association of Wisconsin Tourism Attractions	8/19/2003	↑	
●	●	Madison Metropolitan School District	12/17/2003	↓	
●	●	Tavern League of Wisconsin	11/3/2003	↑	
●	●	Wisconsin Grocers Association	6/3/2003	?	
●	●	Wisconsin Professional Police Association	5/28/2003	?	
●	●	Wisconsin Restaurant Association	12/30/2003	?	

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House
Proposal Type
Proposal Number (enter proposal number)
Legislative Session

Vote Record
Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform

Date: 2/24/04

Moved by: S. Fitzgerald

Seconded by: Wirch

AB 321 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Ronald Brown, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Zien	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Scott Fitzgerald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Roger Breske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed