March 28, 2011 - Introduced by Representatives WYNN, THIESFELDT, KRUG, ZIEGELBAUER, VAN ROY, LEMAHIEU and KAUFERT, cosponsored by Senators GROTHMAN, LEIBHAM and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Homeland Security and State Affairs.

AN ACT to amend 125.32 (3) (b) and 125.68 (4) (b) of the statutes; relating to:

AN ACT to amend 125.32 (3) (b) and 125.68 (4) (b) of the statutes; relating to:
closing hours for certain alcohol beverage retailers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may sell alcohol beverages to a consumer unless the seller possesses a license or permit authorizing the sale. A Class “A” license authorizes the retail sale of fermented malt beverages (beer), in original packages, for consumption off the licensed premises. A “Class A” license authorizes the retail sale of intoxicating liquor, including wine, in original packages, for consumption off the licensed premises. A retailer operating under a Class “A” license may not sell beer between midnight and 8:00 a.m., although a municipality may, by ordinance, impose more restrictive “closing hours” than these. “Class A” retail premises may not remain open for the sale of intoxicating liquor between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

This bill changes the morning closing hours for Class “A” and “Class A” retailers from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., so that a Class “A” retailer may sell beer from 6:00 a.m. until midnight unless the municipality in which it is located establishes more restrictive closing hours, and a “Class A” retailer may sell intoxicating liquor from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
SECTION 1. 125.32 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

125.32 (3) (b) Class “A” premises may remain open for the conduct of their regular business but may not sell fermented malt beverages between 12 midnight and 8 a.m. Subsection (2) does not apply to Class “A” premises between 12 midnight and 8 a.m. or at any other time during which the sale of fermented malt beverages is prohibited by a municipal ordinance adopted under par. (d).

SECTION 2. 125.68 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

125.68 (4) (b) “Class A” retailers. No premises for which a “Class A” license or permit has been issued may remain open for the sale of intoxicating liquor between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

(END)