



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 97
[2011 Assembly Bill 63]

**Closing Hours for Certain Alcohol
Beverage Retailers**

CURRENT LAW

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.

2011 WISCONSIN ACT 97

Act 97 changes the **morning closing hours** for Class “A” and “Class A” retailers from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. so that: (1) 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 (2) a **“Class A”** retailer may sell intoxicating liquor from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The Act permits a municipality, by ordinance, to impose **more restrictive hours** on a **“Class A”** intoxicating liquor licensed premises than the 9:00 p.m. (closing) to 6:00 a.m. (opening) hours in the bill. **For example**, a municipality could, by ordinance, change the allowed opening hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. This provision parallels the provision currently applicable to Class “A” beer licensed premises (which, as noted above, permits a municipality, by ordinance, to impose more restrictive closing hours than midnight to 8:00 a.m. on Class “A” premises).

Effective date: December 21, 2011

Prepared by: Don Salm, Senior Staff Attorney

December 14, 2011

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

