



Alcohol Alert - February 1, 2019



Senate Bill 54 will be heard in the Senate Executive Committee on Tuesday, February 6th. This bill will allow grocery stores and other retailers to deliver hard liquor, beer, and wine homes and other locations after verifying the delivery to someone who is 21 and older.

Underage drinking parties are held in off-campus houses, with the event promoted on social media. One person 21 and older could place an order and accept delivery of the alcohol, and the majority of people at the party could be high school and underage college students. **Verifying the delivery of someone 21 and over will not prevent underage drinking.** In fact, underage drinking could increase if SB 54 becomes law!

Senate Bill 54 PREMPTS Home Rule. Municipalities would be forced to allow delivery of ALL alcohol to homes.

Illinois has one of the HIGHEST rates of binge drinking in the nation. According to the United Health Foundation's annual report, *Excessive Drinking in the United States in 2018*, 19% of adults reported drinking to excess in the past 30 days-14% Female and 23.3% Male. **In Illinois, the rate was 21.4%-16.4% for Females, 26.8% for Males.** The rate of binge drinking and alcohol abuse could increase if SB 54 becomes law.

SB 54 will make alcohol more accessible by having it delivered to homes using the Internet or cell phone apps. Alcoholics and people who have lost their drivers license because of a DUI or do not have a car could drink alcohol delivered to their homes and continue in their addiction.

Alcohol is a mind-altering drug. SB 54 will impact the poor, women with small children, alcoholics, disabled, etc. A Springfield woman working with infants in a day care center was charged for working while intoxicated. The woman fell down in the Day Care Center while holding an infant. The woman, who had a previous DUI, was arrested after Police found empty bottles of wine and smelled alcohol on her breath.

Profit and convenience should not override public health, addiction, and safety concerns. Every year 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes such as alcohol poisoning, car crashes, falls, cirrhosis of the liver, cancer, drowning, homicide, and suicide. Online grocery delivery sales could grow at 10 times the rate of in-store sales during the next five years. Allowing home delivery of alcohol could increase addiction, domestic violence, underage drinking, and harm.

For Immediate Action

File a Witness slip slip as an OPPONENT to SB 54. In the Representation box for "persons, groups, firms represented, type "SELF". Under Testimony, check "RECORD OF APPEARANCE ONLY".

Contact your State Senator and ask him/her to Vote NO on SB 54.

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