

General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6854

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR AND INFUSED

Title: BEVERAGE REGULATION.

Vote Date: 3/24/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute (LCO 6357)

PH Date: 2/14/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee (per request by the Department of Consumer Protection)

REASONS FOR BILL:

Raised House Bill 6854 implements various proposals by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) that intend to improve the Liquor Control Division's permitting and oversight processes. DCP Commissioner Bryan Cafferelli submitted [detailed written testimony](#) explaining DCP's rationale and what each section does.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Proposed Substitute Bill 6854 (LCO 6357) maintains the intent of the initial language but makes three major changes:

- (1) Based on consultation with various stakeholders, there are technical changes made to the transporting and permitting language, so some language in the raised bill appears in different sections of the proposed substitute.
- (2) It clarifies that the new provisions would allow both nursing homes and assisted facilities to serve alcohol under a restaurant caterer permit.
- (3) The substitute language strikes Section 17, 18, and 19 of the raised bill.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Bryan Cafferelli, Commissioner, Department of Consumer Protection](#) submitted written testimony explaining why DCP requested that the committee raise the bill and what each section of Raised Bill 6854 does. He highlights that the proposal will streamline liquor permitting, implement an education program, and update statutes to meet industry standards. Commissioner Cafferelli explains the following about various sections of the raised bill:

- **Sections 2 and 3** create a new in-state liquor transporter permit.
- **Section 4** updates the definition of "grocery store."

- **Section 5** allows assisted living facilities who apply for a restaurant caterer permit to serve alcohol.
- **Section 7** creates a new class for liquor permittees to help them encourage safe alcohol consumption. It also removes the requirement to give notice in newspapers of a permit application.
- **Section 14** states that when DCP's Liquor Control Division conducts minor sting operations, it can coordinate with other state agencies.
- **Section 21** removes an outdated requirement that liquor permits be recorded by each town.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jean Cronin, Executive Director, Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA)

supports Section 4 of the raised bill, which clarifies the definition of a grocery store for the purposes of obtaining a grocery store beer permit. They think this change encourages the responsible sale of alcoholic beverages, but they would like to continue to refine the definition of "grocery store" to include a per capita restriction. CPSA would also like to continue conversations about further amending permitting statutes to close the loophole allowing gas stations to obtain beer permits.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut commented on the portion of the raised bill allowing assisted living communities to apply for restaurant caterer permits so that they can serve alcohol. They would like clarification on whether the language in the raised bill includes both assisted living facilities and managed residential communities, and LeadingAge would like to inform the committee of any requested changes after they receive additional guidance on the topic.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Nicole Chambrello and Betsy Francolino

Date: 3/26/2025