



# State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

## COMPETITIVE ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PRICING TASK FORCE

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

11:00 AM in Room 1B of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM by Task Force Co-Chairwoman, Rep. Kathy Tallarita, 58<sup>th</sup> District.

The following task force members were present:

Rep. Kathy Tallarita, 58<sup>th</sup> District; Edward Berthiaume, Mark Abrahamson; Chief James Cetran; Ed Crowley; Brian Durand (OPM); David Leon; Dr. Stanley McMillen; Rep. Rosa Rebimbas, 70<sup>th</sup> District; Commissioner William Rubenstein (DCP); David Rutigliano; Commissioner Kevin B. Sullivan (DRS); Rep. Sandy Nafis, 27<sup>th</sup> District; Rep. Mary Fritz, 90<sup>th</sup> District

Absent were: Dr. Ian Ayres

Rep. Tallarita thanked everyone for attending. She remarked that, with numerous requests for information that remain outstanding, it may be in the task force's interest to draft a report with all of our findings to date, but without specific recommendations.

Mark Abrahamson stated that one area of research that he would like more information on is what suppliers charge in other states. This topic, he stated, is central to understanding pricing differences from state to state.

Commissioner Rubenstein echoed the remarks by the Chair and stated that the task force may need to scale back some of its work in order to finish on time. He stated that his office is working with Dr. McMillen and others to obtain as much information as possible.

Commissioner Sullivan reiterated the administration's position that the task force needs to address the pricing issues identified to date before discussing any changes to tax policy in Connecticut.

Dr. McMillen stated that he shares Mark Abrahamson's concerns regarding FOBs. He stated that he is still reviewing the raw data and will have his information available at our next meeting. In addition, Dr. McMillen referenced the 2004 study conducted by the legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee on State Liquor Permits. He stated that the task force ought to utilize this study as a starting point in addressing Connecticut's outdated permitting structure.

Brian Durand opined that we need to compile the research received thus far and pursue those research requests that are outstanding. He also asked that the Office of Legislative Research examine the legislative history of the minimum pricing statutes.

Marc Papandrea from the Department of Revenue Services stated that he is still working to compile revenue figures to measure the impact of Sunday Sales. Commissioner Sullivan asked that that information be made available for our next meeting. Rep. Rebimbas asked if DRS could review the last three years worth of sales and revenue data to obtain a clearer, historical perspective. Marc Papandrea stated that he would look at sales and revenue figures from 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Mark Abrahamson asked if the task force was going to discuss some of the issues reviewed by the various subcommittees. Rep. Rebimbas asked if staff could compile that information and share with all members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rep. Tallarita announced that the next task force meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. She also asked that members hold Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> for a possible meeting date as well.

There being no further discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.

Stephen A. Palmer  
Clerk