



## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – 2015 SESSION

January 2016

	Supported	Opposed	Total
<b>Bills &amp; Resolutions</b>	5	25	30
<b>Passed</b>	2	15	17

Alcohol Justice (AJ) identified a total of 30 bills and resolutions of interest during the first half of California’s 2015-2016 Legislative session, of which a vast majority benefitted the alcohol industry. Of the 25 items in 2015 that AJ opposed, 15 passed. AJ supported 5 bills in 2015 and 2 of them passed.

As in prior years, California legislative activity in 2015 favored the alcohol industry over public health. While none of the legislative items were sweeping in scope, those favoring industry continued a sustained push to further erode existing regulation. The themes of alcohol industry-supportive bills generally fell into the following general categories:

- (1) expanding what is permissible in a distinct area of policy, and
- (2) chipping away at long-established separations between tiers.

Whatever the specific purpose of the legislation, the overall outcome remained the same: increased alcohol availability, and less regulation.

Specific bills from 2015 that illustrated the expansion of what is permissible in a distinct area of policy included Assembly Bills 776 and 1295, as well as Senate Bill 685. All three bills expanded the type of sales that certain licensees can make. AB 776 and 1295 allowed specific manufacturers to make certain sales directly to consumers, while SB 685 allowed for veterans’ club licensees to make sales to people that are not members of the club.

Bills that chipped away at existing separations between the tiers included Assembly Bills 462, 527, 780, 973, 1320, and Senate Bill 557. All of these bills expanded the range of exceptions to tied-house laws, thus allowing more interaction between the tiers, and potential influence of one tier on another. While none of these individual bills were sweeping in scope, the sheer number of bills that chipped away existing regulations in support of expanded industry activities is troubling. The cumulative outcome of these changes is less regulation of the industry and further expansion of alcohol availability.

Public health advocates earned at least a short-term victory in opposing Assembly Bill 1322 in mid-2015. The bill was passed unanimously by the Assembly and then public health advocates (including members of LA Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance) stalled it in Senate committee. AB

1322 seeks to allow beer and wine to be served without a license in beauty salons and barbershops, and has the potential to greatly increase the number of locations where alcohol could be made available in a commercial context (easily allowing over 30,000 new venues). Since the bill made it from its original house to the Senate, it is now a “two-year” carryover bill that could be resurrected in the 2016 session at any time.

Of the bills Alcohol Justice supported, the passage of AB 959 is of worthy of specific note. Collecting voluntary data regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in conjunction with rates of alcohol consumption and related harm is a necessary first step to understand the extent to which LGBT communities are experiencing disparities and whether government programs are effectively reaching LGBT populations with prevention and treatment.

Bill #	Position	Summary	Author	Activity Notes
<a href="#">AB X18-2</a>	Support	Imposes surcharge of \$0.05 on each cocktail sold by an on-sale licensee. This interesting bill passed two committees and stalled on the floor of the Assembly special session.	Bonilla (D-Concord)	Special Session still active
<a href="#">AB 973</a>	Oppose	Expands exceptions to tied-house restrictions on advertising allowing manufacturers to list information about off-sale retailers in response to a consumer inquiry. Presently, on-sale retail information may be listed.	Gray (D-Merced)	Carried over to 2016
<a href="#">AB 1322</a>	Oppose	Allows the serving of beer or wine without a license, as part of a beauty salon or barbershop service, provided there is no extra charge or fee for the alcoholic beverages.	Daly (D-Anaheim)	Carried over to 2016
<a href="#">SB 2</a>	Oppose	With the exception of any portion of property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served, exempts property used by a veterans’ organization for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes from property taxes.	Anderson (R-EI Cajon)	Carried over to 2016 <sup>1</sup>
<a href="#">ACR 32</a>	Oppose	Proclaims April 2015 as California Craft Beverage Month.	Bloom (D-Santa Monica)	Chaptered on 5/1/15
<a href="#">ACR 44</a>	Oppose	Proclaims April 2015 as California Wines: Down to Earth Month.	Dodd (D-Napa)	Chaptered on 4/23/15
<a href="#">AB 143</a>	Oppose	Allows premises set aside for wine tasting to offer pretzels or prepackaged food for onsite consumption.	Wood (D-Healdsburg)	Chaptered on 8/11/15
<a href="#">SB 325</a>	Oppose	Provides that the restrictions relating to nonprofit status and number of members do not apply to club licenses issued to clubs operated by common carriers by air at an airport terminal.	Hall (D-South Bay)	Chaptered on 9/3/15
<a href="#">SB 462</a>	Oppose	Expands exception to tied-house restrictions on advertising allowing manufacturers to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, on-sale retail licensees, at a specified complex located in Sonoma County.	Wolk (D-Solano)	Chaptered on 9/21/15
<a href="#">AB 527</a>	Oppose	Expands exceptions to tied-house restrictions on advertising allowing manufacturers to sponsor events promoted by or purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, a live entertainment marketing company that is a wholly owned subsidiary of a live entertainment company that has its principal place of business in the County of Napa.	Dodd (D-Napa)	Chaptered on 10/6/15

<sup>1</sup> The California Legislature has a two-year session. All measures that are not enacted by the end of the first year may be considered in the second year of the session. To be officially designated as a carryover bill during the 2015-2016 Session, a bill must pass its chamber of origin by January 31, 2016. Any first year measure that does not pass its chamber of origin by January 31st may no longer be considered.

Bill #	Position	Summary	Author	Activity Notes
<a href="#">SB 530</a>	Oppose	Allows local licensing of “pedicabs” with rules for local options for allowing drinking by passengers and LEAD training by the driver and safety monitoring.	Pan (D-Sacramento)	Chaptered on 10/4/15
<a href="#">SB 557</a>	Oppose	Deletes sunset provision of current tied-house restriction that authorizes appearance of a person employed or engaged by an authorized licensee at a promotional event held at the premises of an off-sale retail licensee for the purposes of providing autographs.	Hall (D-South Bay)	Chaptered on 10/1/15
<a href="#">SB 685</a>	Oppose	Authorizes a veterans’ club licensee to sell and serve alcoholic beverages for consumption within the licensed establishment to members of other congressionally chartered veterans organizations, active duty or reserve members of the Armed Forces, or veterans, as well as to the members of the veterans’ organization and their guests.	McGuire (D-Healdsburg)	Chaptered on 10/1/15
<a href="#">AB 774</a>	Oppose	Expands law allowing beer tasting instruction events at farmers’ markets to permitted community events adjacent to, and operated in conjunction with, the farmers’ market. Expands law allowing nonprofits to receive a permit to sell wine donated to them to include the sale of donated beer.	Levine (D-San Rafael)	Chaptered on 7/15/15
<a href="#">AB 776</a>	Oppose	Authorizes a brewery event permit allowing the sale of beer it produces for consumption on property contiguous and adjacent to the licensed premises of the manufacturer four times per year.	Cooper (D-Elk Grove)	Chaptered on 10/6/15
<a href="#">AB 780</a>	Oppose	Expands exceptions to tied-house restrictions on advertising by removing the requirement that the listing of on-sale retailers by manufacturers and wholesalers refer to two or more unaffiliated retailers or be in response to a direct inquiry.	Williams (D-Carpinteria)	Chaptered on 10/1/15
<a href="#">SB 796</a>	Oppose	Provides that the ABC is not required to qualify for a license a person who is an investor in a private equity fund that holds an interest in an alcoholic beverage license.	Committee on Governmental Organization	Chaptered on 9/21/15
<a href="#">AB 893</a>	Support	Prohibits beer from being imported into, or sold within, the state unless the label is filed with the ABC.	Stone (D-Monterey Bay)	Chaptered on 10/1/15
<a href="#">AB 959</a>	Support	Requires state agencies that provide health and human services to members of the LGBT community to collect voluntarily provided information about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in the regular course of collecting other types of demographic data.	Chiu (D-San Francisco)	Chaptered on 10/7/15
<a href="#">AB 1295</a>	Oppose	Authorizes a craft distiller license allowing a manufacturer that produces no more than 100,000 gallons of distilled spirits per year to make a range of sale types.	Levine (D-San Rafael)	Chaptered on 10/8/15
<a href="#">AB 1320</a>	Oppose	Expands exceptions to tied-house restrictions on advertising allowing manufacturers to sponsor events on behalf of an on-sale retail of a state- or county-owned fairground.	Maienschein (R-San Diego)	Chaptered on 10/6/15
<a href="#">AB 26</a>	Oppose	Enacts the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Control Act and creates the Division of Medical Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement within the ABC.	Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles)	Died on 6/5/15
<a href="#">AB 34</a>	Oppose	Enacts the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Control Act and, in part, creates the Division of Medical Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement within the ABC.	Bonta (D-Oakland)	Died on 6/5/15
<a href="#">AB 569</a>	Support	Allows beer wholesalers and beer manufacturers to make deliveries to general on-sale licensees between the hours of 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday.	Linder (R-Corona)	Died on 6/5/15

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Activity Notes</b>
<a href="#">AB 980</a>	Oppose	Authorizes a caterer's license allowing certain on-sale licensees to sell alcoholic beverages at specified locations and events.	Mayes (R-Yucca Valley)	Died on 6/5/15
<a href="#">AB 1035</a>	Oppose	Allows a nonprofit fundraiser to auction beer or wine donated by a person who manufactured it for personal/family use without a permit.	Linder (R-Corona)	Died on 6/5/15
<a href="#">AB 1189</a>	Oppose	Removes prohibition that an existing special on-sale general license for a for-profit theater must be cancelled before a new license may be issued.	Bigelow (R-O'Neals)	Died on 2/1/16 (Did not carry over)
<a href="#">AB 1233</a>	Oppose	Permits a distilled spirits manufacturer to sell up to 3 bottles to each person at a tasting on the licensee's premises.	Levine (D-San Rafael)	Died on 6/5/15
<a href="#">AB 1547</a>	Oppose	Authorizes a major event license allowing a promoter or organizer of a major event where it is expected more than 10,000 people per day will attend to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises of event.	Cooper (D-Elk Grove)	Died on 2/1/16 (Did not carry over)
<a href="#">SB 169</a>	Support	Prohibits a place where the primary purpose of the establishment is the sale and dispensation of alcoholic beverages from being used as a polling place. Existing law may permit such a location for being used as a polling place.	Gaines (R-Roseville)	Died on 6/5/15