

SUBJECT: Extending the hours for the wholesale delivery or sale of beer

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Flores, Geren, Goolsby, Hamilton, Jones, Thompson
0 nays —
3 absent — Isett, Miles, Quintanilla

WITNESSES: For —(*Registered, but did not testify*: Rick Donley, The Beer Alliance of Texas; Alan Gray, Licensed Beverage Distributors; Brad Shields, Texas Retailers Association)
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Under Alcoholic Beverage Code, sec. 105.05(b), a person may sell, offer for sale, or deliver beer between 7 a.m. and midnight on any day except Sunday.

DIGEST: HB 2724 would add Alcoholic Beverage Code, sec. 105.052 to allow the holder of a general, local, or branch distributor's license whose premises are located in a county with a population of 1.8 million or more or in a county adjacent to a county with a population of 1.8 million or more to sell, offer for sale, or deliver beer beginning at 4 a.m. on any day except Sunday.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 2724 would allow beer wholesalers and distributors in large metropolitan areas to deliver their products to retailers in a way that would benefit everyone involved. The bill would apply to Harris and Dallas counties and the counties that surround them. It would allow beer distributors to make their deliveries early in the morning before the onset of rush hour in these large metropolitan areas. This would lighten traffic congestion and improve air quality by allowing trucks to avoid idling and

stop-and-go driving. Finally, large retailers prefer to restock at night or early in the morning when customer volume is lowest. HB 2724 would allow distributors to deliver their products at the most convenient time for retailers.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1216 by Gallegos, has been referred to the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.