

**SUBJECT:** Extending hours for selling alcoholic beverages in hotels

**COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — S. Thompson, Darby, Fierro, Geren, Guillen, Hernandez, Huberty, Pacheco

0 nays

3 absent — Kuempel, Ellzey, Goldman

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Justin Bragiel, Texas Hotel and Lodging Association; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Thomas Graham, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission)

**BACKGROUND:** Alcoholic Beverage Code sec. 105.01 prohibits selling, offering for sale, or delivering liquor on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Sundays and before 10 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on other days. There are exceptions to this provision, including ones for the sale of mixed beverages. Alcoholic Beverage Code sec. 105.06 establishes hours of consumption for alcoholic beverages, including standard and extended hour areas.

Some have suggested that limits on the times for sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in hotels could hinder tourism and the hotel industry, which have been hurt during the pandemic.

**DIGEST:** HB 1518 would authorize hotel bars to sell alcoholic beverages at any time to a registered guest of the hotel and would authorize individuals who are registered guests of a hotel to consume or possess alcoholic beverages at any time in the hotel bar.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.