



Maine Grocers &  
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Monday, March 8, 2021

IN SUPPORT - LD 591 'An Act Regarding Agency Liquor Store Licensing'

Dear Senator Luchini - Chair, Representative Caiazzo - Chair, and Members of the Committee On Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Christine Cummings and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association (MGFPA). The Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association is a business trade association representing Maine's food community; Main Street businesses, including independently owned and operated grocery stores and supermarkets, food and beverage producers and processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and supportive service companies.

Last session, there were three bills addressing the number of agency liquor store licenses. LD 1078 passed making changes including a new tier for towns with populations above 60,000 and adding an additional tier for populations between 10,001 and 20,000. LD 591 seeks to add an additional license to the current top 4 population tiers.

In some additional review of the work on this topic last session, BABLO presented testimony requesting for the opportunity to review 2010 Census data to ensure licenses accurately reflect population statistics. They also noted, "Generally, we are seeing a shifting of consumer living and purchasing trends in new and different growth centers in our state. Maine's mid-sized municipalities are seeing revitalizations." The 2020 US Census data is slated to be released at the end of the month, March 31, 2021 and we look forward to how this data may again help align the state's efforts to effectively license stores accurately based on the state's population.

In my role as the Executive Director, I receive inquiries from members and non-member businesses who are looking for more information on securing a liquor license for their storefront but often the licenses are unavailable as the number of licenses are at capacity. Allowing for a slight increase in our state's most populated municipalities simply allows for another Maine business to offer an expanded product line to their customers. A unique product assortment, excellent customer service, location or convenience, and other factors beyond price will ultimately determine where customers choose to buy their spirits. We support the bill seeking a minor adjustment so that new and established retail partners may have the opportunity to serve as a responsible agency liquor store partner if it's determined that they are a qualified entity to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

*Christine Cummings*

Christine Cummings  
Executive Director