

ABL WEEKLY

Policy, Industry & Business News for Beverage Retailers

Friday, February 8, 2019

Issue 369

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[February 11-12 - TWSRA Legislative Report & Day on the Hill | Nashville, TN](#)
[February 21 - Maryland Alcohol Lobby Day, Annapolis MD](#)
[February 24-26 - RHI Sociable City Summit | Philadelphia, PA](#)
[March 15-18 - Wine & Spirits Guild Spring Meeting | Destin, FL](#)
[March 19 - TLW Annual Legislative Day | Madison, WI](#)
[March 20 - ILBA Lobby Day & Legislative Reception | Springfield, IL](#)
[March 24-26 - 2019 ABL Annual Meeting | Las Vegas, NV](#)
[March 31-April 3 - WSWA 76th Annual Convention & Exposition | Orlando, FL](#)
[April 1-4 - TLW Spring Conference & Tradeshow | Appleton, WI](#)
[April 7-10 - NBWA Legislative Conference | Washington, DC](#)
[May 5 - MBDAPA 83rd Annual Convention & Tradeshow | Pocono Manor, PA](#)
[June 3 - ILBA Annual Golf Outing | Springfield, IL](#)
[June 10-12 - Beverage Alcohol Retailers Conference | Louisville, KY](#)
[July 29-31 - ECRS Ignite 19 Retail Success Conference | Nashville, TN](#)
[September 9-11 - MTA Annual Convention & Tradeshow | Sidney, MT](#)
[September 12 - IABR Fall Golf Outing | Indianapolis, IN](#)
[September 15-17 - ILBA Annual Convention & Tradeshow | LaSalle, IL](#)
[October 10 - IABR Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting | Indianapolis, IN](#)

ABL & PUBLIC POLICY News

[Senate Finance Chair Says Tariffs on Steel, Aluminum Should Go:](#) Republican U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley on Wednesday called on the Trump administration to lift tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico before Congress begins considering legislation to implement the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade deal. The three countries on Nov. 30 signed the pact replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which governs more than \$1.2 trillion in trade.

[Senator Sanders Proposes to Reform the Estate Tax:](#) Progressive tax proposals are finally being discussed with the urgency and seriousness they deserve. Following Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's call for a much higher marginal tax rate for multi-millionaires and Sen. Elizabeth Warren's proposal to introduce a wealth tax for those at the very top, Sen. Bernie Sanders has introduced a revised version of his proposal to reform the federal estate tax. The estate tax is perhaps the least understood tax in America.

[Irving Azoff's GMR Accused of 'Deliberate Witness Intimidation' In Radio Licensing Dispute:](#) Looks like 'hugging it out' isn't an option in this ugly legal war. Just this week, performance rights organization Global Music Rights (GMR) and terrestrial radio group Radio Music Licensing Committee (RMLC) continued to spar over royalty obligations in U.S. District Court. RMLC says GMR is trying to bully major radio broadcasters into paying higher performance fees, and using its considerable catalog of high-powered hits to force the higher rates.

[Conservatives Bash FDA for 'Regulatory Panic' on e-Cigarettes:](#) A coalition of conservative and libertarian groups is demanding President Trump "pump the brakes" on the administration's crackdown on e-cigarettes, arguing the anti-vaping efforts will hurt "an innovative industry that is helping American smokers quit." The

letter, sent to the White House on Monday, criticized the Food and Drug Administration — and specifically its commissioner, Scott Gottlieb — for waging an “aggressive regulatory assault” on e-cigarettes.

U.S. Reaffirms Commitment to Wine and Spirits Trade Post Brexit: In 2017, the UK was the top export market for US distilled spirits, totalling \$187 million, and the largest single market for American whiskey exports, which accounted for almost \$150 million of that total. The US and UK signed an agreement on 31 January to ensure reciprocal protection for Bourbon, Tennessee Whiskey, Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey and wine after the UK leaves the European Union (EU), and that trade will continue uninterrupted.

Highway Safety Advocates Push State Law Agenda: The Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (AHAS) says new legislation adopted by the states to plug gaps in their existing safety laws could make a big difference in saving lives and reducing injuries. The argument is laid out in the 16th edition of the group’s annual Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws. This report rates all 50 states and Washington, DC, on their progress toward enacting 16 fundamental traffic safety laws.

Cannabis Tax Revenues on the Rise Across the Western U.S.: The opportunity to raise significant tax revenues from cannabis continues to be a key selling point for proponents of recreational sales. Last year, a number of Western states where cannabis has been legalized for recreational use posted strong revenue increases. In the 12 months through November, Washington state collected \$369 million in tax revenues from cannabis, up 8.3% year-on-year, while Nevada posted revenues of \$85.2 million in its first full year of legal sales.

Traffic Deaths Rose, Then Fell, After Three States Legalized Marijuana: Traffic deaths rose temporarily in three states that approved recreational marijuana, according to a new study. This research is the latest attempt to untangle the question of whether legal marijuana makes the roads more dangerous. Currently, 33 states have legalized medical marijuana and 10 have legalized recreational marijuana. Though the public is increasingly accepting of cannabis, experts worry about negative public health effects, given a growing body of research that says marijuana impairs driving abilities and the fact that there’s no accurate way to measure how impaired someone is from cannabis.

House Financial Services Committee Will Hear Cannabis Banking Bill Next Week: With a new Democratic majority in the U.S. House, the movement of cannabis bills in committee is expected to be smoother. The first sign of a more receptive Congress in 2019 will come when the House Financial Services Committee takes up a draft of the SAFE Banking Act, expected Feb. 13. The news was first reported by Politico reporter Zachary Warmbrodt.

Music Modernization Act’s Mechanical Licensing Collective Takes Shape: The National Music Publishers’ Association, the Nashville Songwriters Association International and the Songwriters of North America today unveiled the board members and endorsements for their Mechanical Licensing Collective submission to the U.S. Copyright Office. Members of the various boards and committees include representatives from most major music publishers and performing-rights organizations, as well as several songwriter/artists who have been outspoken about creators’ rights.

Wyden Bill Would Make Craft Brewers’ Tax Reform Permanent: Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Senator Roy Blunt, R-Mo., introduced legislation Wednesday they said is designed to help ensure the continued growth of America’s craft beverage industry by making permanent tax reform and rule modernization adopted in 2017 but set to expire at the end of the year. The Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act would permanently establish reduced taxes and modernized regulations for brewers, cider makers, vintners and distillers to further promote job creation in each industry, the pair said.

Driving Drunk: States with the Most DUIs: DUI, or driving under the influence, can have consequences far more severe than a dented bumper or a demolished mailbox. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one American dies every 50 minutes in a drunk driving accident, with the total cost of these crashes exceeding \$44 billion every year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drunk driving has fallen by a third in the past 30 years.

Why So Many Americans Now Support Legalizing Marijuana: American views on marijuana have shifted incredibly rapidly. Thirty years ago, marijuana legalization seemed like a lost cause. In 1988, only 24 percent

of Americans supported legalization. But steadily, the nation began to liberalize. By 2018, 66 percent of U.S. residents offered their approval, transforming marijuana legalization from a libertarian fantasy into a mainstream cause.

[Trump Praises GOP Estate Tax Reform as Democrats Mull Expansion](#): President Trump Opens a New Window. applauded the success of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in giving relief to some Americans through reforming the estate tax Opens a New Window. , at a time when Democrats have proposed expanding it. “We have virtually ended the estate tax, or death tax that is – as it is called, for small businesses, ranches and family farms,” Trump said before the nation on Tuesday.

INDUSTRY News

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

[TTB Newsletter - Weekly News \(February 8\)](#)

3x3 Insights

[Retail Untapped Episode 12: Top-Performing Brands this Holiday Season](#)

[Retail Untapped Newsletter](#)

Brewbound

[Sierra Nevada Makes First-Ever Acquisition, Buys Fast-Growing Sufferfest Beer](#)

SevenFifty Daily

[What Wine Marketers Should Know About Cannabis Consumers](#)

[The Science of Tannins in Wine](#)

[How to Build a Profitable No-Alcohol Beverage Program](#)

Shanken News Daily

[Interview with Jim Mortensen, President and CEO, Ste. Michelle Wine Estates](#)

[Canopy Growth CEO Bruce Linton on the Future of Cannabis Beverages](#)

VinePair

[AB-InBev Buys Up Ratebeer](#)

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

[Local Control of Alcohol is Best \(Op-Ed\)](#)

AFFILIATE News

Kansas Licensed Beverage Association

[Competing Interests Coming into Play on Kansas Sports Wagering Legislation](#)

Tipoff of the battle for control of legalized sports betting in Kansas revealed an eagerness of casinos, bars, retailers and leagues for a piece of the action. The National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball lauded House Bill 2068 for featuring a unique royalty fee paid to sports organizations. Two major players in the industry, FanDuel and DraftKings, were enthusiastic about talk of change in Kansas as long as betting wasn't limited to bricks-and-mortar businesses. Both claim inconvenienced sports gamblers would stick with illegal offshore websites.

Montana Tavern Association

[On-Site vs. Mobile Fight Key to Sports Betting Question in Montana](#)

Last May, gamblers across the country rejoiced when the Supreme Court overturned the Professional and Amateur sports Protection Act, giving all 50 states the chance to legalize sports wagering. So far, seven have, with many more including Montana introducing legislation this year. Three different Montana organizations are expected to write bills - the Coin and Slot Route Operators, the Board of Horse Racing and Intralot, who runs

the state's lottery operations. One - or a combination of all three - is expected to be heard by the Legislature later this month.

[Montana Lawmakers to Consider Extending Brewery Hours](#)

Montana breweries would see extended hours under a bill the House Business and Labor Committee will consider on Tuesday. As it stands, breweries producing 100 to 60,000 barrels can serve alcohol in their taprooms from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sponsored by Rep. Dave Fern, D-Whitefish, House Bill 185 would push the closing time back to 10 p.m. A contentious issue between brewery and tavern advocates, this isn't the first time a version of the bill has been introduced.

New York State Liquor Association

[Wine & Weed?](#)

With New York State on the verge of legalizing marijuana, there is a small debate regarding where it should be sold. Steven Kalogridis, the president of the New York State Liquor Association, is vying for marijuana to be sold in liquor stores across the state. While many would argue this is not safe for drivers, Kalogridis has found that this can be beneficial to bolster alcohol sales. In many states that have legalized marijuana, alcohol sales have decreased, but Kalogridis' plan would ensure the safety of the alcohol economy.

Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma

[More Liquor Law Changes Expected from Lawmakers – Including Allowing Children Under 12 into Liquors Stores with a Parent](#)

Lawmakers are expected to consider several measures to push forward with modernizing the state's liquor laws. On Oct. 1, grocery and convenience stores began selling wine and cold, strong beer. The change came after legislation and voters' approval of a state question. Other changes were also made. Sen. Stephanie Bice, R-Oklahoma City, led the movement to make complex changes to the state's liquor laws. "This was never about alcohol," Bice said. "It was always about economic development."

STATE & LOCAL News

[Alabama: Lawmaker Looks to Privatize State Alcohol Retail Sales](#): Alabama Senator Arthur Orr is again trying to shake up the state's alcohol retail sales. He's drafting a bill to file in the Alabama Legislature's upcoming session in March that would eventually do away with state-run ABC stores. Orr (R-Decatur) is looking to phase out Alabama's 170 ABC stores over a period of several years by privatizing the retail function of the Alcoholic Beverage Control board. "Why are we in the liquor business to start with?" Orr said.

[Alaska: New Legislation Would Save Beer and Wine at the Alaska State Fair](#): A bill introduced in the Alaska Legislature on Tuesday would preserve beer and wine sales at the Alaska State Fair by fixing a gap in state law regarding alcohol licenses. Senate Bill 16 creates a new alcohol license specifically for fairs, resolving an issue that threatens to prevent the Palmer fair – and the other Alaska state fairs in Ninilchik, Kodiak and Haines – from getting alcohol licenses.

[Colorado: Bill Would Give Cops More Discretion in Marijuana DUI Arrests](#): A bill introduced in the Colorado Legislature would give law enforcement more leeway when charging drivers with marijuana and drug DUIs, and some cannabis activists aren't happy about it. State Representative Dylan Roberts says he supports Colorado's cannabis industry, but when he's not working at the Capitol, Roberts is a deputy district attorney in Eagle County, where he says he's prosecuted hundreds of DUIs.

[Colorado: Colorado Springs Liquor Stores See Impact One Month After Full-Strength Beer Law Takes Effect](#)

It's been a month since full-strength beer hit the shelves at grocery stores across Colorado, potentially taking business away from local liquor stores and Super Bowl weekend could be a huge test. For Sean Robinson, being the manager at Old Colorado City Liquor means building a relationship with the customers. "Pick up on stuff going on in their lives -- their son in college whatever it happens to be.

[Connecticut: Legislation That Could Have Crippled Connecticut's Craft Beer Industry Is Dead, but a Larger Battle Is Brewing](#): A battle is brewing between Connecticut's growing craft beer industry and large beer distributors, wholesalers and retailers, who question whether the smaller brewers are following laws regarding

how much beer they can sell, and at what price. The concerns from the wholesalers, distributors and retailers led to a pair of proposed bills that craft breweries saw as an outright attack on the industry, which has grown in Connecticut from a handful to more than 80 in the last several years.

Hawaii: Lawmaker Introduces Bill to Eventually Ban Cigarette Sales in State: A Hawaii state lawmaker has introduced a bill intended to effectively ban cigarette sales statewide. State House member Rep. Richard Creagan's (D) bill would raise the minimum smoking age incrementally each year to 30 in 2020, 40 in 2021, 50 in 2022, 60 in 2023 and 100 in 2024. The current legal smoking age in Hawaii is 21.

Hawaii: Lawmakers Focus on Toughening DUI Laws: Hawaii lawmakers were shocked by the tragic traffic incident in Kaka'ako this week that took the lives of three innocent victims and injured several more. Representatives and Senators are in the process of passing several strong new laws aimed at drunk and impaired driving. "These types of deaths are avoidable," said Rep. Chris Lee, chair of the House Judiciary Committee. "It's frustrating, especially when you know people who have been involved, and we all do," said Representative Chris Lee, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Idaho: Fight Brewing Over Liquor License Reform: Brad Selvig, owner of the End Zone Sports Bar on Broadway Avenue in Boise, showed us his Idaho liquor license which he got almost 20 years ago. It cost about \$180,000. "When all was said and done, that's about the price I paid for it," Selvig said. And he says he has no regrets, considering it an investment in his business. Selvig is also secretary and treasurer of the Idaho Licensed Beverage Association, which plans to fight the latest proposal in the statehouse to overhaul the liquor license system.

Illinois: Senate Committee Approves \$15 Minimum Wage: A Democratic-controlled Senate committee on Wednesday approved an increase in the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, but the sponsor hedged on calling for an immediate floor vote despite pressure from the new Democratic governor to send him legislation within two weeks. The Executive Committee approved the six-year plan 13-6, setting it up for a vote on a Senate floor which Democrats control 40-19.

Illinois: First Bill Emerges This Year to Legalize Marijuana – Would Allow Up to 24 Plants at Home: A Democratic state lawmaker has filed a bill to legalize recreational marijuana in Illinois that likely goes further than other legislators prefer, but it has officially started the debate over complex legislation that will need to serve many interests. The bill, introduced Jan. 25 by Rep. Carol Ammons of Urbana, would allow licensed businesses to grow and sell pot, and residents to grow up to 24 plants at home

Indiana: Most Stores Can't Sell Cold Beer. GOP Chairman's Investment Deepens Fears It'll Stay That Way: Two influential Indiana Republicans have bought into a business whose lobby has for years kept cold beer out of grocery stores and other retail outlets, a move that is raising conflict-of-interest questions involving the industry's clout at the Statehouse. The package liquor store lobby has successfully convinced lawmakers to take actions in its favor, most notably stopping the expansion of cold beer sales to grocery stores, convenience stores and pharmacies, despite the fact polls have consistently shown most Hoosiers want that measure to pass.

Indiana: House Okays Allowing Wine, Mixed Drinks Sales from Golf Carts: Indiana residents would be able to sell wine and mixed drinks like margaritas from golf carts on the state's golf courses under a bill that's cleared the Indiana House. The chamber approved the legislation Thursday on a 92-4 vote, sending the measure to the Senate for consideration. The Journal Gazette reports Indiana law technically allows only sales of malt beverages, or beer, from golf carts.

Iowa: Alcoholic Beverages Division Launches Mobile Application to Help Validate Age to Purchase: The Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD) announced today it has released a mobile application to help retailers determine the age of customers attempting to purchase alcohol, tobacco, alternative nicotine, and vapor products. "This app is an attempt to utilize technology to provide cost-effective tools to license and permit holders to help keep alcohol, tobacco, alternative nicotine and vapor products out of the hands of Iowa's youth," said ABD Administrator Stephen Larson.

Iowa: State Senator Calls to Legalize Recreational Marijuana and tax It Like Alcohol: An Iowa Democrat is proposing that the state legalize and regulate marijuana the same way it does beer or liquor. But Sen. Joe Bolkcom, D-Iowa City, admits that the measure has "about zero" chance of passing the Republican-controlled Legislature. Bolkcom announced the proposal at a news conference Monday morning and said he expects to introduce a bill in the next couple weeks that would set up a system to license companies to grow, manufacture and sell marijuana to adults 21 years and older.

Maryland: Franchot, Kramer Trade Sharp Jabs over Roles with Alcohol Businesses: Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot and state Sen. Ben Kramer became engaged in a war of words Tuesday, accusing each other of conflict of interest when it comes to the alcohol and tobacco industries. At issue is a bill Kramer has introduced that would prohibit elected and appointed government officials who receive financial contributions of more than \$100 from the alcohol, tobacco and motor fuel industries from having regulatory authority over the industries.

Maryland: More Than a Dozen Maryland Breweries Plan to Open This Year: Beer drinkers in Maryland have plenty to look forward to this year. More than a dozen breweries are in the works throughout the state, according to a list maintained by the Brewers Association of Maryland. They'll join the approximately 100 breweries already open and operating. That's good news for consumers, who will likely see higher-quality options as the \$638 million craft brewing industry matures, said Jim Bauckman, a spokesman for the brewers association.

Mississippi: Legislature Could Allow Wine to Be Shipped into Mississippi: Two bills are under consideration in state legislative committees that would allow direct sales and shipment of wine to Mississippi residents. Members of both the House and Senate have authored bills, and local liquor stores are lobbying against them. Similar measures failed last year.

Missouri: JP's Corner Bar Sued by BMI for Allowing Cover Songs Without a License: JP's Corner Bar was hit with a lawsuit last week by Broadcast Music Incorporated, or BMI, which accuses the Sunset Hills watering hole of allowing bands to perform copyrighted cover songs within its walls despite not being licensed to do so. The suit was filed last Thursday. The performing rights organization, which licenses more than 12 million copyrighted compositions on behalf of composers, songwriters and publishing companies, accuses JP's of willfully infringing upon the copyrights of six songs under its purview by allowing bands to perform covers at the bar.

Missouri: City Council Considers Regulating Drink Specials: Columbia's City Council discussed the possibility of regulating drink specials at Monday night's meeting. The Columbia Police Department and Public Health and Human Services presented a report outlining different outcomes of intoxication, which the council requested in March of 2018. The report included a chart with the number of alcohol-related reports in 2017 from the Columbia Police Department and stated 24 percent of reports taken in the downtown sub-beat (70D) were alcohol related.

New Hampshire: Marijuana Bill Gets Public Hearing: Vermont, Massachusetts and Maine: All the states that surround New Hampshire and have already legalized recreational marijuana. Now, there is a new push in the Granite State to do the same. Committee hearings do not usually take place in the main House chamber at the Statehouse in Concord. But the possible legalization of cannabis brings out the crowds. "Granite Staters know that it is already legal to grow and possess marijuana in all three neighboring states.

New Jersey: State Will Get \$15 Minimum Wage: New Jersey will soon have a \$15 minimum wage after Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law legislation that would gradually raise the state's starting wage to \$15 per hour by 2024, NJ.com reports. The first pay raise will bump the current \$8.85 to \$10 an hour on July 1. New Jersey is the fourth state to mandate a \$15 minimum wage. "Today we make our economy both fairer and stronger," Murphy said after signing the bill on Monday.

New Jersey: Trump Administration Just Threatened State's \$350M Online Gambling Industry: Online gambling in New Jersey has grown to become a \$350 million business since the federal government gave its OK eight years ago. But President Donald Trump's Justice Department last month reversed that ruling, and state officials fear that a decision could threaten a growing piece of the gambling pie. "This unexpected opinion

from the U.S. Department of Justice not only jeopardizes the future of our casinos and gaming industry, but also threatens the jobs of thousands of New Jerseyans," Gov. Phil Murphy said.

New York: Record Number of Fake IDs Seized in 2018: State officials say ongoing efforts to crack down on fake identifications being used to illegally purchase alcohol in New York resulted in a record number of bogus ID seizures last year. Gov. Andrew Cuomo says the state seized 892 of the fake documents as part of Operation Prevent in 2018, up from 814 the previous year. The Democrat says New York state has zero tolerance for underage drinking and will continue to conduct enforcement efforts to catch people who break beverage control laws.

North Carolina: Private Liquor Sales on Table for Asheville, rest of State, Sen. Edwards Says: Republican N.C. Sen. Chuck Edwards told a conservative business group Friday he was open to privatizing government-controlled liquor sales and that a committee he is chairing has some sway over the issue. "Lots of folks already are coming to me and talking about changes to North Carolina's antiquated ABC laws to make things streamlined both for folks who administer that and for business," said Edwards, who represents part of Buncombe County including Asheville and all of Henderson and Transylvania counties.

North Carolina: Could There Be a Big NC Beer Distribution Deal on the Way?: North Carolina's beer industry is closely following a potential business deal that could dramatically transform local distribution channels. In the past few months, several Triangle Business Journal sources have indicated that Greensboro-based R. H. Barringer, a large beer-distribution company, may bring Raleigh's R.A. Jeffreys under its umbrella. Neither Jeffreys or Barringer would confirm or return messages to talk about the potential marriage.

Oregon: Liquor Deliveries Might Be on Their Way: In Oregon, having a pinot gris or a potent indica delivered to your door is as simple as a few taps on the iPhone. But try to get a bottle of Irish whiskey without leaving the house and you're probably out of luck. Under the state's highly regulated liquor distribution system, home deliveries are out of the question. State Rep. Margaret Doherty says that's an outmoded policy. "Here in Oregon it is legal to deliver marijuana to your home, but you can't deliver hard liquor," said Doherty, a Democrat from Tigard.

Oregon: Pot Export Bill Gets Hearing and a Warning: A bill that would create the possibility of Oregon exporting marijuana to adjacent states where cannabis is also legal had its first public hearing Thursday, where advocates said it would give Oregon a way to relieve its oversupply and grow its brand. Separately, the U.S. attorney for Oregon warned against it. There is little expectation that Senate Bill 582, if passed by the Legislature, would soon open marijuana commerce between Oregon and California, Nevada and Washington, the three states contiguous to Oregon where it is legal.

Pennsylvania: What's Fresh in the Latest Bill to Legalize Cannabis for Recreational Use?: The latest in a series of bills to legalize marijuana in Pennsylvania for adult recreational use was introduced Monday in the Assembly. The bill, H.R. 50, which would amend current law, differs radically from previous efforts to legalize marijuana. Introduced by Rep Jake Wheatley (D., Allegheny), it addresses several issues long fought for by advocates. This is the first bill to be introduced after Gov. Tom Wolf said in mid-December that it was time for Pennsylvania to seriously consider legalizing recreational use.

Rhode Island: Beverage Industry Argues Increasing Tax on Six Packs by One Penny Will Drive Customers Out of State: Rhode Island's beverage lobby has begun to fight against Gov. Gina Raimondo's plan to double the state's tax on bottles and cans. At a Senate Finance Committee hearing Tuesday night, lobbyists for soda makers, liquor stores, beer distributors and retailers said raising the container charge, also referred to as a "litter tax," from 4 cents to 8 cents per case would send customers streaming into Massachusetts seeking cheaper refreshment.

South Dakota: Bill Would Allow Stores to Deliver Alcohol: South Dakota lawmakers are considering legislation that would allow you to order alcohol online or by phone and have it delivered to your house. However, some liquor stores are actually opposed to the bill. As the owner of Booze Boys, Robert Wentz is always trying to find new ways to boost business. "We're an independent, stand-alone store, one of the few left in the state," Wentz said.

South Carolina: Man, Mauldin Police Settle Lawsuit About DUI Arrest with .02 BAC: A Clinton man charged with DUI when his blood alcohol content was .02 percent has been awarded a settlement after he sued Mauldin police, according to his attorney. Calvin Williams filed a personal injury lawsuit against the Mauldin Police Department in December 2018. The monetary amount Williams was awarded was not revealed in court documents filed on Jan. 31. Sam Tooker, Williams' attorney, also declined to disclose the amount.

South Carolina: Legislators Consider Sunday Alcohol Sales: Statewide the retail sale of liquor is only permitted Monday-Saturday 9am-7pm and. Sunday sales are banned. However, a new proposed state house bill would give counties the option to put Sunday liquor sales up for a vote- to let the public decide if Sunday liquor sales are something they'd like to see. The owner of Pence's Liquor in Downtown Charleston doesn't think that staying open on Sundays will make much of a difference for local stores in terms of revenue.

South Dakota: Lawmakers to Debate Sports Betting, Distracted Driving Plans: South Dakota lawmakers plan to take up bills this week to create a reporter shield law, allow sports betting in Deadwood and ban teaching about gender identity in elementary and middle schools. A proposal asking voters to legalize sports betting in Deadwood is set to have a hearing Wednesday in the Senate State Affairs Committee. The push comes after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way last year for all states to offer legal sports betting.

Tennessee: TABC Taps Russell Thomas as New Executive Director: Tennessee's main agency in charge of alcoholic beverage licensure, regulation and enforcement has a new chief, a former Davidson County assistant prosecutor. Attorney Russell Thomas was sworn in Monday as the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission's new executive director in a ceremony at the agency's headquarters. He was appointed last week by TABC's three commissioners. Thomas said in a news release that he was "excited to continue the good work of the Commission by operating in a business-friendly, technology savvy and accessible manner, while ensuring that the laws are fully enforced to keep Tennesseans safe."

Tennessee: Memphis Lawmaker Wants Marijuana to Be Available Like Alcohol: A state lawmaker is on a mission to change the way Tennesseans view marijuana. We need to discuss this, let people understand that it's not necessarily a gateway drug," said Sen. Sarah Kyle (D-Memphis). "We don't punish people before drinking alcohol - maybe if they have a DUI we do. We need to frame marijuana along those same lines." Sen. Kyle believes change is in the air when it comes to legalizing weed.

Texas: Concerns Arise Over Local Alcohol Sales Through Social Media: The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is actively investigating three cases involving sales of alcohol on social media. TABC sergeant Brent Puente says there's a growing number of sales on local Facebook marketplaces. A South Texas College student says she is concerned about the trend of alcohol sales. Lisa Gamez says she worries about her underage classmates having easy access to low price liquor. Gamez says she knows these alcohol advertisements on Facebook market groups are easy access to low price liquor.

Utah: Plan to Raise Alcohol Limits in Beer at Stores Approved: A proposal to raise low alcohol limits for beer sold at Utah grocery stores has cleared its first hurdle. The unanimous committee vote on Thursday came despite opposition from substance-abuse counselors and people worried about children getting higher-alcohol beer. Many local craft brewers are also against it, saying it would require them to modify their products while allowing larger breweries to keep store shelf space.

Washington: Two Lawmakers Push to Toughen Washington DUI Laws: From the five-time drunk driver in Seattle's Wedgwood neighborhood who plowed into four family members in 2013 – killing two – to the repeat drunk driver who killed a 28-year-old woman last year after speeding down I-5 the wrong way for six miles near Marysville – and all of the others who have come before and since, Democratic Senator David Frockt says it is clear we have a problem here in Washington state.

West Virginia: Liquor Bill Allowing Sales on Sundays Passes the House: The West Virginia House of Delegates has passed a bill that would allow liquor to be sold on Sundays. While the bill still has to make its way through the senate before it is law, public support seems to already be behind the bill. Stephen Meyers, a Harrison County resident, says the bill would hopefully bring more economic growth to our area. "I think that if we were to do that it would bring a lot more business growth directly to the state," said Meyers.

Is Your Business Missing Digital Opportunities? : You've received this article digitally, not in print. What's more, the younger you are, the more likely you are to be reading these words on your mobile phone. The Center for Generational Kinetics, with a specialty in generational research and solutions, documented the trend to mobile interactions in its 2018 State of Gen Z study. Consider this tidbit: 95% of Gen Zers have smartphones and 25% of them had smartphones before age 10.

Here's How Much a Case of Beer Costs in Every U.S. State: As football fans load up on beer this Super Bowl weekend, those in Wyoming will be paying a premium: They have to shell out around \$27 to get a case. Meanwhile, New Yorkers only have to spend around \$15. That's according to new data from deal site Simple Thrifty Living, which found the average price of a 24-pack of beer in every state by comparing prices at national retailers across the U.S. The data accounts for major, domestic beer brands, not craft beer.

Anheuser-Busch Tries to Make Amends with Corn Farmers After Super Bowl Ad: Anheuser-Busch, the parent company of Bud Light, is looking to make amends with the National Corn Growers Association after the beer giant aired commercials with the slogan "brewed with no corn syrup" during Sunday's Super Bowl. A representative of the beer giant emailed the corn farmers' group late Sunday "looking to make it right" and asking for a meeting with farmers, according to Neil Caskey, Vice President of Communications for the National Corn Growers Association.

In 2018, U.S. Consumers Ordered Cannabis Every 8 Seconds: According to the cannabis delivery clearinghouse company Eaze.com, "consumers placed a cannabis order every 8 seconds in 2018." This information can be found in Eaze's 2018 State of Cannabis Report. The report also tells us that many of those consumers were Baby Boomers. Eaze's report claims that "First-time cannabis consumers grew by 140% thanks to adult use legalization.

Wine Prices to Decline After Last Year's Huge Crops: Wine lovers will have something to toast about this year: Prices from several origins are set to become cheaper. Prices of generic wines from Spain and Italy are easing because of a large harvest in 2018, while bottles from Argentina have become less costly due to the devaluation of its currency, Rabobank International said.

Billboard Battle Brewing? Liquor Barn Takes Jab at the Competition: Local chain Liquor Barn is poking at the competition with a strategically placed billboard advertisement. Maryland-based Total Wine & More posted a billboard advertisement along Interstate 71 downtown promoting its location across Shelbyville Road from Mall St. Matthews, touting it as "worth the drive." The liquor, beer and wine superstore opened its second Louisville location in October last year.

Pucker-Up This Valentine's Day with These Bartender-Beloved Sour Beers: If you're single during February (and on Valentine's Day in particular) it's easy to have a fairly bitter outlook on love. But instead of sitting around feeling sorry for yourself, get out there and go to a bar with your single friends. Grab a beer (or three). Wallowing in self-pity is very 2018. To help ease the plight of a single person on Valentine's Day, we'd like to recommend a sour beer.

Scientists Are Racing to Make Weed as Easy to Drink as Beer: People who drink alcohol typically learn the hard way how much is too much-usually in their teens or early 20s. As adults, they're not interested in learning the same hard-knocks lesson about cannabis. This is the challenge for an industry seeking to win over new or inexperienced users as legalization spreads through North America and around the world.

Why the Increasing Retail Availability of Wine Might Not Be Such a Good Thing: The wine industry is worried, and you, dear consumer (speaking in the global, holistic statistic sense) are the reason. We can chuckle all the way to the bank (do people still go to banks?) as we save money from dropping wine prices. Our search for value is paying dividends. But our drinking habits, as well as our spending, are giving the wine industry fits. Ultimately, that may not be to our benefit, as our buying habits may have the ironic effect of narrowing our options. And wine's beauty stems to some extent from its diversity.