



Senator Roger Reinert

2014 SUNDAY SALES

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Sunday Sales in Minnesota

The repeal of the Sunday liquor sales ban is not a new idea in the Minnesota legislature. However, it's an idea in motion and its momentum is growing, with enough voices it will be hard for legislators to ignore this proposal much longer. This year is different for two reasons; to start with Sen. Reinert has been joined in his call to repeal these antiquated 'blue' laws by the experienced Rep. Jennifer Loon. The second reason is that the legislature is offering a full spectrum of Sunday liquor law options. From a full repeal to testing the waters with growler and tap room sales, there are many options on the table.

Full Spectrum of Sunday Sales Law Options

Full repeal of the restriction on Sunday sales (S.F. 225):

The Senate bill is authored by Sen. Reinert and would fully repeal the sales ban. The main argument is that this is an outdated 'blue' law that has no place in the 21st century. For many supporters it's a basic market issue, the state should allow businesses to be open when they want to be open, and consumers should be allowed to buy products when they want.

A bill which repeals the restriction on Sunday sales, but allows municipalities to choose to keep the restriction (S.F. 2031):

This bill would allow municipalities and local governments to have control of liquor sales in areas under their jurisdictions. The state would make a blanket repeal of Sunday Sales, but if a municipality so chooses, it could keep the ban in place.

A bill which allows municipalities to choose to allow liquor sales on Sunday. Liquor off-sales allowed on any day by municipal authority:

This bill simply gives local governments the option of allowing liquor sales on Sunday. If a repeal of the restriction on Sunday Sales is popular in certain areas, like border towns – this bill would allow local municipalities to overturn the state law.

Allowing for the sale of growlers on Sundays: The craft brew industry has been quickly growing in Minnesota over the past few years. The industry has pushed for the ability to sell their own beer in growlers 7-days a week. This bill would address that need.

Allowing tap rooms to sell alcohol on Sunday: This proposal also addresses the burgeoning craft brew industry across the state. Craft brewing advocates are strongly supporting the proposal that would allow them to keep their doors open 7-days a week, and would help them generate in-house more revenue.

Introducing a Constitutional Amendment for the 2014 ballot to repeal Sunday liquor sales: This proposal would allow the voting public to make a decision on whether or not they would like the Sunday liquor sales law repealed. If the legislature cannot address this straightforward issue in the "Unsession," allow voters the opportunity in November.

A bill that restricts the sale of liquor on Saturdays: The liquor lobby argues that repealing the Sunday liquor sales will not help liquor store owners generate any additional revenue, rather it would only spread six days of sales over seven. If this is true, this bill would further reduce expenses by requiring stores to be closed on Saturdays. According to the liquor lobby argument, the same amount of sales would be generated over the more limited five days of operation.