



Assembly Bill 492 - Oppose

TLW Position

The Tavern League of Wisconsin opposes Assembly Bill 492, authored by Representatives Tauchen, Zimmerman, Kooyenga, Macco, Kulp, Duchow, Hutton, Brandtjen, Skowronski, Ott, Wachs, Murphy, Allen, and Pope and Senators Harsdorf, Stroebel, Kapenga, Ringhand and Bewley.

AB 492 would dismantle the three tier system by:

- Devaluing existing licenses by increasing quota by 10%
- Allowing brewers to sell intoxicating liquor
- Allowing wineries to stay open until 2 AM and sell beer
- Creating a Distillpub permit
- Expanding brewpub permits

Background

Wisconsin's three-tier system is a pro-consumer regulatory framework governing the production, distribution and sale of alcohol. This system creates a bright line of separation between the manufacturing, distributing, and retail tiers of the industry, promoting a free market within tiers while prohibiting unfair competition by an entity in one tier over an entity in another. The system today provides necessary checks and balances on each tier, while providing the public the safety net of regulation with the fairness of competition. Under today's three tier system we have experienced a craft beer revolution and local winery expansion which would have never been possible under the old "tied house" laws.

AB 492, however, would tilt the balance in favor of one tier over another. Any legislative effort to favor one tier over the other is bad for consumers, bad for small business and bad for our state's economy. It is patently unfair to give one tier a legislative advantage over another tier. For these reasons the TLW is strongly opposed to any legislation which would grant a brewery a liquor license or a winery a liquor or beer license.