

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

HB 529, relative to the liquor commission.

Hearing Date: February 17, 2026

Time Opened: 10:24 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:30 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Innis, Murphy, McGough and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators Ricciardi and Fenton

Bill Analysis: This bill allows on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery.

This bill also restores penalties for overserving of liquor by licensees

Sponsors:

Rep. Grill

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Rep. Bay

Rep. Berry

Rep. Coker

Rep. A. Murray

Rep. Osborne

Who supports the bill: Mike Somers (NHLRA), Cory Stone, Melanie Kasparian

Who opposes the bill: Kate Frey (New Futures), Angelique Hall

Who is neutral on the bill: Matthew Culver (NHLC), Mark Armaganian (NHLC)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Tim McGough, on behalf of Representative Jessica Grill

- This bill dealt with the delivery of takeout liquor.
- Similar language was passed by the Senate Commerce Committee and the full Senate.

Mike Somers, President and CEO, New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association

- This bill was a carryover from last session, and it was worked on for two years between the industry, the Liquor Commission, and legislators.
- In addition to allowing cocktails to go, Mr. Somers said Section 1, Lines 1 through 7, would allow restaurants to close their business to the public for a private party.

- **Senator McGough** asked if he had done a side-by-side comparison of this bill and what was passed by the Senate.
 - **Mr. Somers** said this version worked better, and the Commission had signed off on the various controls within it. There are labeling requirements, so when an individual orders a to go cup with an integrity seal, certain information must be listed on it. This provides the Commission with information that can be used during investigations.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented:

Mark Armaganian, Chief of Liquor Enforcement and Licensing, and Matthew Culver, Lieutenant, New Hampshire Liquor Commission

- Chief Armaganian said they were gravely concerned about no integrity seals on to go drinks, but this bill addressed their concerns.
- Chief Armaganian said this bill was palatable for the operating public, and it addressed concerns around the operation of motor vehicles and open containers within motor vehicles.
- This bill would follow an industry standard that is used for the commercial sale of these products.
- **Senator Innis** asked if they were neutral on this bill, and they did not have any issues with it.
 - **Chief Armaganian** said they did not have any issues with it.
- This bill contains other provisions, including penalties, which the House felt were necessary.