



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 289

EFFECTIVE June 28, 2021

- WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §3-7-19, "Objection by adjoining Property Owners-Proximity to schools and churches" makes it illegal to have a restaurant that serves alcohol within two hundred feet (200') of a school or a church; and
- WHEREAS, R.I.G.L. §3-7-19 was first adopted in 1933, the same year that Prohibition ended; and
- WHEREAS, Large sections of the Cities of Providence, Newport, and Pawtucket have been exempted from this prohibition; and
- WHEREAS, The Town of Warren is exempted from this prohibition; and
- WHEREAS, Newport sidewalks are exempted from this prohibition; and
- WHEREAS, Approximately sixty-six (66) other premises have been exempted from this prohibition; and
- WHEREAS, An exemption from this prohibition is discretionary, requires a full act of the Rhode Island General Assembly, and commonly takes more than one (1) year to acquire; and
- WHEREAS, It is an unfair burden on small businesses operating within the hospitality industry to acquire an amendment to a state law in order to be able to serve alcohol in a manner identical to their competition in the same immediate area; and
- WHEREAS, Each Rhode Island municipality reviews and approves liquor licenses on a regular, year-round basis; and
- WHEREAS, Rhode Island State Senators and Representatives have critical, complicated, and far ranging duties and responsibilities that impact the entire state with limited time to review and debate and legislate; and
- WHEREAS, Each Rhode Island municipality's local liquor approval personnel have more local knowledge of their own municipality, neighborhoods, streets, and hospitality industry concerns than senators or representatives that do not represent the municipality; and
- WHEREAS, Prohibition Era "Blue Laws" damage the Rhode Island economy and are an unnecessary burden on small local businesses that no longer serve the public's greatest interest; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City Providence requests:

- The Honorable Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly to amend Rhode Island General Laws §3-7-19, "Objection by adjoining Property Owners- Proximity to schools and churches" in a manner such that each municipality is empowered to pass its own ordinance regarding the issuance of liquor licenses within two-hundred feet (200') of a school or regular place of worship.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 17 2021
READ AND PASSED


JOHN J. IGLIAZZI, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Shawn Selleck
City Clerk