

Wine in Grocery Stores

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The Issue

“Wine with dinner?” Don’t let the question confuse you. It’s not a question of whether you want wine with dinner. It’s a question about whether Minnesota should change the state’s liquor law. The legislature is considering a bill (H.F. 1205) that would allow supermarkets in the metropolitan area to obtain licenses to sell wine. Does the benefit of not having to make a special stop at a liquor store outweigh the problems associated with the increased availability of alcohol? The grocers association claims the advantage of permitting grocery store wine sales, is one of convenience for shoppers (“A vintage debate,” 2001, March 4). Minnesota’s neighboring states of Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota are among 33 states that allow the sale of wine in grocery stores. Passage of this bill, and the convenience it may provide for some shoppers, is raising concern for public health and safety. Studies have demonstrated that increasing the outlets for the sale of wine also increases the access and consumption of alcohol (MacDonald & Whitehead 1983; Gruenewald, Ponicki & Golder, 1993; Gruenewald, 1998). This in turn., increases the social and health problems associated with drinking. Many are also concerned that putting wine on grocery shelves will lead to more underage drinking (“A vintage debate,” March 4, 2001). The added convenience of purchasing wine in the grocery store needs to be reconciled against the added risk of alcohol consumption, youth access and the additional cost to society that passage of this bill would bring.

This analysis is based on a review of published information, including newspaper articles journal studies and printed material from agencies both for and against passage of the bill. Interviews were also conducted with the author of bill in the House of Representatives and some of the key participants involved in the issue. The hearing I attended in the House Liquor Subcommittee also provided me with insight on the issues surrounding the bill. This bill received a lot of attention during the 2001 legislative session. From all indications, it appears likely this debate will continue into the next session.

The Problem

Grocers want to provide goods and services that make it convenient for people to shop in their stores. Today customers can do their banking, send a fax, purchase stamps and fill prescriptions in many of the stores where they stop to buy groceries. Minnesota grocers want current law changed, thereby permitting them to sell wine in supermarkets in the seven county metropolitan area. Wine is sold in grocery stores in many countries, including New Zealand, Finland and Canada. According to AC Nielsen (June 6, 2000), supermarkets now sell 45% of wine in New Zealand. In fact, wine has overtaken bread as the top seller, according to a Wellington, New Zealand newspaper (Morrison, T. June 6, 2000). Under existing law (House Research Bill Summary) the only food stores that may obtain off-sale liquor licenses are those that are in first-class cities and have an off-sale license first issued before August 1, 1989. This change in law would authorize the off-sale of wine containing not more than 15.5% alcohol by volume for consumption off the licensed premises.

Liquor is a controlled substance. Health and other public concerns have generated detailed Federal and state regulation of the sale and possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and wide range of other controlled substances. The history of Prohibition, repealed in 1933 by the Twenty-First Amendment to the US Constitution, has given way to a mix of Federal and state laws governing alcohol. That same year Minnesota passed the Liquor Control Act. The act was established to regulate the manufacture, distribution, retail sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the State of Minnesota.

In Minnesota, the governing body of a city or county may issue off-sale or on-sale licenses within their respective jurisdictions. Off-sale is defined (Minnesota Statutes 2000, 340A) as the sale of alcoholic beverages in original packages for consumption off the licensed premises only. Conversely, on-sale is the

sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises only (Minnesota Statutes 2000, 340A). The licensed premises means the areas described in the approved license application (Minnesota Statutes 2000, 340A). No person may sell or otherwise dispose of alcoholic beverages as part of a commercial transaction without having obtained the required license or permit.

Minnesota's alcohol retailers argued that, because they only sell alcohol, they are the best choice to control the distribution of alcohol (cited in Supporting Minnesota's Alcohol Retailing Tradition). They pointed to a record that ranks Minnesota 43rd for alcohol problems when compared to the other 49 states. Further, they reported that of the states having the most problems, seven of the top eight allow the sale of alcohol in grocery stores. The Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association and the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, (cited in Supporting Minnesota's Alcohol Retailing Tradition) among others, oppose this bill due to the negative affects this legislation would have on preventing drunk driving and underage alcohol sales and consumption. Studies such as Ledermann's (1956) suggested that, as the per capita consumption of alcohol increases, the percentage of abusive drinkers is likely to increase. Therefore, heavier drinkers may be more susceptible to increases in availability (MacDonald, 1986). Additionally, they oppose the bill because it would have a significantly detrimental economic impact on current off-sale retail. Wine sales in grocery stores permitted by state are summarized in Figure One.

The Debate

Those Opposed

The Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association (representing restaurants, taverns and clubs) and the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association (representing municipally owned and operated on-sale and off-sale alcohol beverage facilities) are chief opponents of the bill, along with numerous law enforcement agents, agencies and others. Principally, they oppose the bill due to the negative affect this legislation would have on preventing drunk driving and underage alcohol sales and consumption. There is evidence that young people (under the legal age for liquor purchase) in New Zealand are buying wine from supermarkets (Wyllie, Millard & Zhang, 1996). The Municipal Beverage Association (February, 2001) listed the following reasons for their opposition:

1. This legislation would significantly increase the number of off-sale establishments allowed to sell wine (alcohol) - a controlled substance. This increase would put a large economic personnel burden on regulatory bodies.
2. These establishments would be "owed to sell all types of wine products including wine coolers, fortified wine, sweet "pop" wine, and jug wine - products most strongly desired by underage individuals.
3. The minimum age to purchase alcohol in Minnesota is 21 years old. The majority of current off-sale retailers do not allow persons under 21 to enter their facility to purchase any items, unless accompanied by an adult. Common industry practice allows individuals under 21 years of age to enter and purchase products in a grocery store including cigarettes and lottery tickets. This customer base would make it difficult to ensure consistent legal sale of beverage alcohol.
4. The economic impact to current off-sale retailers would be devastating. Current off-sale retailers are statutory limited to the types of items they can sell. Grocery stores are not limited and will be able to simply utilize wine as a new and significant profit center to complement their existing inventory. Current off-sale retailers will not be able to compete.
5. This legislation opens the door for the elimination of 3.2% beer in Minnesota. (3.2% beer contains not less than one-half of one percent by volume nor more than 3.2 percent alcohol by weight).

At the liquor subcommittee hearing of March 23, 2001, among those testifying against the bill were representatives from the City of Plymouth. They provided a summary of compliance checks in the city from 1998-2000. In testimony before the committee, Council member Judy Johnson and Police Chief Craig Gerdes told the committee that liquor stores held the best record of compliance checks in their city. The added number of access points that this bill would provide is also a concern, due to the increased responsibility to monitor and control compliance in their city. They are particularly concerned with youth access to alcohol.

Their concerns are noteworthy. According to a 2000 survey released from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, alcohol continues to be the most widely abused drug among adolescents in the United States.

In addition to access, cities that operate municipal liquor stores are concerned about the potential loss of revenue this bill would create. In 1957, Minnesota passed a City bill that allowed individual cities the option to sell liquor. According to the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association (February, 2001), these cities generated approximately \$180 million in sales annually and contribute approximately \$11 million in new-profits to various city funds. In the City of Apple Valley, for example, the four municipal liquor stores contribute 16% in revenue to the city's annual budget.

Those in Favor

The Minnesota Grocers Association is the primary proponent of the wine with dinner bill ("A vintage debate," March 4, 2001). The Association represents 1,200 grocers in the state, including Cub Foods, Rainbow, Lunds and Byerly's. A number of grocery customers have indicated their support for the bill by filling out a postage paid card with their name and address. The grocers have pledged to adopt a 10 point Code of Conduct which puts forth their commitment to promoting responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages (cited in Wine with Diner). According to the Minnesota Grocer's Association (January, 2001) they pledge to:

1. Comply With All Laws. State and local laws that govern responsible beverage sales represent the minimum standard of compliance for our store.
2. Post Age Restrictions. Our store will prominently display signage that no sales will be made to anyone under the age of 21.
3. Guarantee All Employees Who Sell Wine Are At Least 18. No grocery store employee under the age of 18 will be authorized to complete the sale of wine to any customer.
4. Card Everyone Under 30. At a minimum, customers purchasing wine who are under the age of 30 will be required to show a driver's license or state-sanctioned identification before a purchase will be authorized.
5. Conduct Annual Training. Any employee and the employee's supervisor who conduct wine sales will be required to participate in annual training regarding responsible wine sales and practices.
6. Require Employee Training Before Wine Is Sold. Before selling wine to customers, any employee and the employee's supervisor must undergo specialized training including: Asking for identification, recognizing fraudulent identification, refusing sales of alcohol to intoxicated or underage purchasers, understanding of the local and state laws that apply to the sale of wine.
7. Welcome Law Enforcement. Any law enforcement agency is welcome to check our compliance with local and state alcohol statutes at any time. We welcome law enforcement to check compliance with our Code of Conduct elements (signage, training, etc.) as well.
8. Conduct Additional Compliance Checks. In addition to welcoming law enforcement to check our compliance, our store will conduct internal compliance checks on the employees and managers to ensure that we abide by all laws and policies.

9. Post Information and Warnings. Our store will display information regarding responsible consumption, to include: A warning (similar to those on product packaging) about the risks of alcohol consumption for pregnant women and their unborn children. A warning about the illegality of driving while under the influence of alcohol. Any additional state or local law requirement.
10. Enforce Strict Consequences. In addition to being subject to strict state and local. Outlines our company's disciplinary actions for any employee who sells wine to an underage person and our intention to strictly enforce our policy; Includes a summary of relevant state and local laws with regard to underage sales; States clearly that any employee and employee's supervisor who have the responsibility of wine sales will participate in training regarding responsible wine sales once a year; Requires each employee and that employee's supervisor who have responsibility for wine sales to sign and date the company policy; Subject any employee or manager who would violate state law regarding underage sales to our store's disciplinary policies in addition to any state or local penalties.

At the Liquor Subcommittee hearing of March 9, 2001, Nancy Christenson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Grocers Association, testified that the grocers would be subject to the same penalties and hours of operation as exist in current law. The grocers presented a demonstration of the new scanning equipment that would be used in grocery stores to make certain that purchases were legitimate and that the patron properly checked out. It should be noted that this equipment was not specified in the bill; therefore it is uncertain if it would be required.

Summary of the Bill

Grocery wine (H.F. 1205) as introduced would allow supermarkets in the metropolitan area to obtain off-sale licenses to sell wine up to 15% alcohol. Consumption is for off-premise only. Prior to issuing an off-sale wine license, the city would have to determine that the applicant has established and implemented an employee and supervisor training program and a theft prevention plan. It also requires the city issuing the license to conduct at least one youth access compliance check each year at each licensed supermarket.

All supermarket employees that sell wine must obtain proof of age before making the sale of wine and must also complete the employee training program each year. Supermarkets that sell wine would be required to post notices stating that customers will be required to show proof of age and no wine will be sold to any person under the age 21.

Cities issuing licenses would be allowed to set the fee for the license but only for an amount necessary to recover the cost for issuance, inspection and enforcement, including compliance checks. Current law prohibits a city from issuing more than one off-sale intoxicating liquor license to any one person or for any one place and this prohibition would be exempt. The change in law would also exempt off-sale wine licenses from restrictions on the number of off-sale intoxicating liquor licenses of the first-class. The bill prohibits cities from enacting ordinances that would restrict persons under the age 21 from entering a supermarket with a wine off-sale license.

Cities in the seven-county metropolitan area would be required to issue off-sale wine licenses to supermarkets that meet the qualifications. These general qualifications require a licensee to be at least 21 years old, be of "good moral character and repute," and not to have had a liquor license revoked in the previous five years, and not have been convicted within the previous five years of a violation of law governing alcoholic beverages.

The law would require the licensees to be approved by the commissioner of public safety before they are considered valid. Supermarkets are defined as a general food store carrying each of the following product

categories: bread and bakery; dairy; meat; frozen and refrigerated food and beverages; produced; canned and packaged food products; staple foodstuffs; household products; and health and beauty aids. It would also require the building used for supermarket operations to be at least 10,000 square feet.

Status of the Bill

The bill was heard on March 23, 2001, in the House Liquor Subcommittee. They voted 5-2 in favor of H.F. 1205 and sent the bill to the full Commerce Committee. Chief House author Representative Barbara Sykora (R-Sykora) withdrew the bill at the Commerce Committee hearing on March 29, 2001. This action essentially laid the bill over until next session. Representative Sykora stated that “this bill is not going away, the liquor lobby has had their way for 10 years” (personal communication, 2001). She plans to bring up the bill again next session. It is just over 10 years since the legislature last heard a grocery wine bill.

Analysis of the Literature

Quebec

Since the end of prohibition in 1933, a general trend in the United States, Canada and other parts of the world has been towards the adoption of regulatory changes that have resulted in greater access to alcoholic beverages. The reason for such change has been primarily focused on the grounds that people should be allowed freer and more convenient access to alcoholic beverages. In an attempt to favor local wine producers, the Quebec legislature passed a law in the late 1970's allowing the sale of domestic Quebec wines in local grocery stores.

The sale of beer had always been allowed in Quebec grocery stores. Smart (1986) analyzed wine sales and total alcohol sales both before and after sales for domestically produced or bottled table wine began in grocery stores in 1978. Smart concluded that introduction of domestically produced wine in grocery stores created no short - or medium-term increase in wine sales or total per capita alcohol consumption. Smart further observed that table wine was not the most popular alcoholic beverage and that because imported wines, often preferred in French-speaking Quebec, remained limited to provincial monopoly stores, the results were therefore not surprising.

In another study, Adrian and Associates (1994) analyzed Quebec's experience using alcohol sales data from 1953-1990 using time series analyses by forecasting the expected level of wine consumption after the 1978 change. While they did find an increase in wine consumption soon after privatization, they concluded that it was a temporary effect and not a long-term change in wine consumption.

New Zealand

On April 1, 1990, the new Sale of Liquor Act came into effect which allowed wine sales in New Zealand supermarkets, grocery stores, and dairies. Previously, the only alcohol sold at grocery outlets was beer below 1.17%. Based on an interrupted time series design, researchers Wagenaar and Langley (in press) studied the introduction of wine into grocery stores in New Zealand. With nationwide quarterly alcohol sales data from 1983 to 1993, they found a 17% increase in wine sales associated with the change in distribution. Increased sales were limited to table wine which is the specific category of alcoholic beverage permitted in grocery stores. Sales of fortified wine, distilled spirits and beer did not increase.

Other research from Wyllie, Holibar, Jakob-Hoff, and Casswell (1993) provided clear evidence that introducing wine to grocery outlets enabled many grocery shoppers to change their relationship with wine. The study found women in particular were more comfortable about purchasing wine when it became available in grocery stores because they felt the grocery outlet was “their domain”. The study also questioned whether the presence of wine might lead to an increased perception of wine being an ordinary grocery product. Additionally, they questioned whether this perception might provide a corresponding de-emphasis of its drug properties and the problems associated with consumption of alcohol. They concluded that feeling more comfortable with wine might lead to increased consumption, another concern from a public health perspective.

Finland

In Finland, the legislative revision of 1968 permitted ordinary grocery stores and cafes to sell medium beer, and lowered the minimum legal age for off-premise purchases of alcoholic beverages. Prior to the legislative revision, all off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages took place in State Alcohol Monopoly liquor stores, and on premise sales in licensed, mostly privately owned restaurants. As a consequence of changes in alcohol legislation, the availability of alcoholic beverages increased greatly in Finland in the first half of the 1970s. This change was followed by a rapid increase in alcohol consumption (Ahlsrom & Osterberg, 1992). For the next decade consumption stabilized, but from the mid-1980s on, both alcohol availability and consumption have again increased (Ahlsrom & Osterberg, 1992).

Four U.S. Case Histories

In the United States, MacDonald (1986) analyzed wine, beer and spirits sales in four U.S. states (Idaho, Maine, Washington and Virginia) that implemented a partial or complete elimination of the retail monopoly for wine for the period 1961 through 1978. Using trend or regression lines for several years prior to the increase in availability, MacDonald was able to predict consumption in subsequent years (that is, in the years of increased availability). Similar analyses were also performed for spirits and beer. The purpose of conducting the same analysis, given substantial increases in wine consumption, was to rule out other impacts and to determine whether other beverages were substituted (such as spirits or beer). Early investigations (Colon, 1981, 1982; Smart, 1977, Swidler, 1986) used cross-sectional research designs, looking at differences in alcohol retail control were approximately 25% higher than for the same product sold in the state-controlled stores.

In Virginia beginning July 1, 1974, grocery stores were permitted to sell fortified wines in addition to the non-fortified wines they had previously been able to sell (MacDonald, 1986). Most of these stores sold beer as well. The increased availability therefore, was in the form of one new product - fortified wines. Fortified wines contain a much larger percentage of alcohol than regular wines. The wine sold in the grocery stores was generally between 15 and 20% more expensive than in the state-controlled stores, and fortified wines could not be sold any more cheaply than the cheapest bottle of wine.

Discussion of finding

These four states introduced very different regulatory changes that permitted increased availability of wines. From this study, MacDonald (1986) found Idaho wine consumption increased 190% in Maine 305% and 26% in Washington. While this was not as large as Idaho or Maine, the findings are statistically significant. In Virginia, the change involved the privatization of fortified wines only. Table wine had been sold in grocery stores for decades. As a result, the weight of the evidence for Virginia suggests that the introduction of fortified wines was not accompanied by a significant increase in wine consumption. The increases in this study (MacDonald, 1986) are specific to wine only, indicating that it is

highly improbable that the increases were caused by other factors such as lowering of the drinking ages or economic conditions. Also, because the regulatory changes occurred in different years, the results cannot be attributable to more global phenomena (MacDonald, 1986). While it is true that wine consumption has increased in all States, the analyses and evidence measured by MacDonald (1986) demonstrated significant departures from these trends for each state.

Changes in Alcohol Consumption Five U.S. States

Wagenaar and Holder (1991) conducted interrupted time series analyses in West Virginia and Iowa to study the elimination of state retail wine monopolies. They found a 48% increase in West Virginia and a 92% increase in wine sales in Iowa following the end of the retail wine monopolies. Wagenaar and Holder (1995) conducted further studies concerning changes in alcohol consumption resulting from the elimination of retail wine monopolies. They identified five states, in addition to Iowa and West Virginia, that privatized wine sales between 1968 and 1971 - including Alabama, Idaho, Maine, Montana and New Hampshire. In Alabama the changes took place in two phases. In October 1973, three of the most populated counties (Jefferson, Tuscaloosa and Mobile) were permitted to have private outlets sell table wines for off-premise consumption. Montgomery County (where the state capital is located) was also included, thus allowing the sale of table wine for off-premise consumption. These three counties represented 31% of the total Alabama population. Seven years later, in October 1980, privatized table wine sales were permitted in all Alabama counties.

In Montana, the state ended the retail monopoly of table wine (14% or less alcohol by volume) in October 1979, and raised this level six years later in 1985 to 16% alcohol by volume. In New Hampshire the state eliminated the public retail monopoly for table wine in August 1978. Fortified wines continued to be sold in state retail monopoly stores. As noted previously, Maine eliminated its monopoly in January 1971 and Idaho eliminated their monopoly of table wines in July, 1971.

In the study, Wagenaar and Holder used the preferred interrupted time series design (Cook & Campbell, 1979) for evaluating effects of elimination or retail monopolies on wine sales. In this study, the policy changes that took place varied from state to state, which strengthened the research design by eliminating particular historical events such as the introduction of wine coolers, to the validity of the research. Monthly reports of total volume of spirits sold to licensed retail establishments (state stores before the end of state monopoly and private licenses after) obtained from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States were the source for data in the study. Also, the beverage volumes were converted to absolute alcohol to take into account the growing market share of wine coolers which have a lower concentration of alcohol than other wine.

Discussion of findings

Wagenaar and Holder (1995) reported all five states experienced statistically significant increases in wine sales after privatization despite the fact that wine represents a relatively small portion of the overall market for alcoholic beverages. After controlling for nationwide wine sales trends, four of the five state's increases in wine sales were dramatic. In Alabama, the privatization of sales in 1973 in the three counties (Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, and Mobile) a 16% increase in statewide wine sales was experienced. When privatization was extended from three counties to all counties in 1980, the result was a 42% increase in wine sales. Montana experienced a 75% increase in wine sales following its 1979 introduction of wine into private stores. New Hampshire saw the smallest change, a 13% increase was reported following the 1978 privatization policy.

Wagenaar and Holder (1995) also analyzed beer and spirits sales separately in all five states using the same type of time series models used for wine sales. They found there were no statistically significant changes in beer or spirits at the time of the increases in wine sales. It can therefore be stated that the demand for alcoholic beverages across beverage categories were not influenced by other state specific changes. Further, they found little evidence of substitution or the increase in wine sales was not associated with either reductions (substitution) or increases (spillover) in sales of beer and spirits. Table 1 summarizes these findings.

Lessons Learned

The pattern of significantly increased wine sales following privatization has now been found in nine jurisdictions. The magnitude of increases is substantial, ranging from a low of 13% in New Hampshire to a high of 305% in Maine. Results also suggested that the sales increases reflect increased consumption of wine because there is no evidence of shifts of sales or shifts from beer or spirits to wine. The weight of evidence from additional study (MacDonald & Whitehead 1983; Gruenewald, Ponicki & Golder, 1993; Gruenewald, 1998) indicated that the frequency of off-premise outlets contributes to the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Alternative Solutions

Representative Sykora indicated that she is open to discussing changes to this proposed legislation (personal communication, 2001). It is my impression that she was prepared the day of the hearing to offer amendments to the bill. She offered one example under consideration. Cities with municipal liquor stores may have the option of opting out of this legislation and keeping their own city operated liquor stores. This may help some cities and, consequently, they might reconsider their position on the bill. If the bill passed and became law, it is probably just a question of time before these cities would be pressured into permitting grocery store wine. Whether cities should operate municipal liquor stores is not the subject of this study, but it is likely that they would have to give serious consideration to removing themselves from this activity.

The real question is whether liquor distribution should change or continue to be controlled in the same way it is today. The proposed legislation is just one of several alternatives the legislature could consider if they want to make changes to current law. There is a fear, that, if the bill passes, the door will stay open and many more changes will be considered.

Stakeholders

Seventy-seven cities across the state have signed resolutions opposing the sale of alcoholic beverages in grocery stores. Minnesota Police Chiefs and Sheriffs' Association's along with numerous other organizations and individuals have voiced opposition to the sale of wine in grocery stores. Minnesota's citizens are almost evenly split over the grocery store wine bill according to a Star Tribune Minnesota Poll (Daves, R. 2001, January 12).

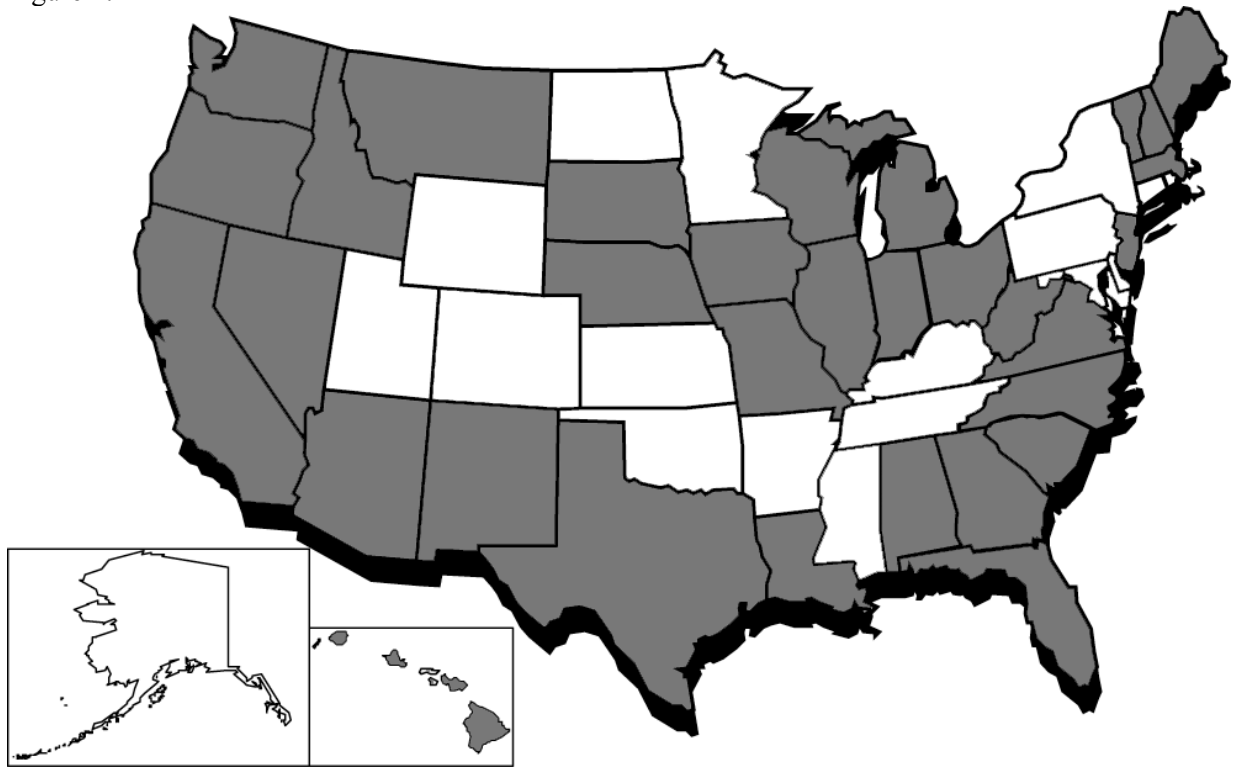
Conclusion

The introduction of wine in grocery stores (H.F. 1205) should be defeated. As these studies have demonstrated, the structure of the retail distribution system has a significant effect on alcohol sales. A review of the literature strongly affirms a positive relationship between an increase in availability and an increase in consumption.

The question before the legislature should not be framed in the simple context “wine with dinner”. Rather public policy discussions should consider the extent to which people are willing to pay for the social consequences that increased consumption of alcoholic beverages will bring.

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Figure 1:



- Wine available in grocery stores
- NO wine available in grocery stores

The following cities have passed resolutions opposing Wine in Grocery Stores as of March 15, 2001

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Ada | Alexandria | Anoka |
| Apple Valley | Bagley | Battle Lake |
| Bemidji | Benson | Big Lake |
| Braham. | Brooklyn Ctr | Browerville |
| Buffalo | Callaway | Cambridge |
| Clarissa | Columbia Hts | Cromwell |
| Delavan | Detroit Lakes | Eden Prairie |
| Edina | Elk River | Erhard |
| Fairmont | Glencoe | Grand Marais |
| Hackensack | Hanley Falls | Hawley |
| Hinckley | Howard Lake | Hubbard Cnty |
| Hutchinson | Isanti | Isle |
| Ivanhoe | Kasson | Lake Benton |
| Lakeville | Lindstrom | Litchfield |
| Lonsdale | Marshall | Mazeppa |
| Minneapolis | Monticello | Morris |
| Nevis | Nisswa | North Branch |
| Olivia | Park Rapids | Proctor |
| Randall | Renville | Sacred Heart |
| Sanborn | Sauk Rapids | Savage |
| Sebeka | Shorewood | Silver Bay |
| Spring Lake Pk | St. Anthony Village | Two Harbors |
| Thief Rv Falls | Tracy | Underwood |
| Verndale | Wadena | Walker |
| Walnut Grove | Warroad | |

Table 1: Summary of results from studies of the effects of elimination of public retail table wine monopolies

| Jurisdiction | Date of Policy Change | Effect on Wine Sales (%) | Study |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Alabama | October 1980 | +42 | Wagenaar & Holder 1995 |
| Finland | 1968 | Initially Temporary But Rising | Ahlstrom & Osterberg, 1992 |
| Idaho | July 1971 | +190 | MacDonald, 1986 |
| Iowa | July 1985 | Temporary | Mulford and Fitzgerald 1988 Mulford et.al. 1992 |
| Maine | January 1971 | +92 +305 | Wagenaar & Holder 1991 MacDonald, 1986 |
| Montana | July 1979 | +75 | Wagenaar & Holder 1995 |
| New Hampshire | August 1978 | +13 | Wagenaar & Holder 1995 |
| New Zealand | April 1990 | +17 | Wagenaar & Langley in press |
| Quebec | June 1978 | None Temporary | Smart, 1986 Adrian, 1994 |
| Washington | 1969 | +26 | MacDonald, 1986 |
| West Virginia | July 1981 | +48 | Wagenaar & Holder 1995 |

Stakeholders Opposed

A number of cities, organizations and individuals have voiced opposition to the sale of wine in grocery stores.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Minnesota Police Chiefs Association

League of Minnesota Cities

Minneapolis Star Tribune Editorial Board

Minneapolis City Council

Saint Paul Police

William Finney, Saint Paul Police Chief

Sid Applebaum, former grocery retailer,
past President of Rainbow Foods

John Masog, Park Rapids City Attorney

Lane Wardahl, Wadena Police Chief

Litchfield Independent Review Editorial Board

Don Carlson, Manager of Coborn's Grocery Store,
Elk River

John Bolduc, Mora Police Chief

Joel Downer, Brooklyn Center Police Chief

Minnesota Wine and Spirits Wholesalers

Minnesota Join Together

Minnesota Public Health Association

Action on Alcohol and Teens

Minnesota Sheriff's Association

Other Stakeholders

Minnesotans

Minnesotans are almost evenly split over legislative proposal to allow wine sales in grocery stores according to Minnesota Poll.

Legislators

According to the Minnesota Poll both Republicans and Democrats voiced approval, Independents were opposed.

Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association

Statewide organization representing restaurants, taverns, clubs and alcohol beverage package stores. MN Licensed Beverage Association has vowed to make this a campaign issue. Strongly opposed.

Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association

Statewide organization representing municipally owned and operated on and off-sale alcohol beverage facilities. Strongly opposed.

Minnesota Grocers Association

Statewide organization representing grocers. Pushing to pass the bill.

Minnesota Wine & Spirits Wholesalers

Statewide organization representing wholesale distributors. Strongly opposed.

Paul Kaspszak

Executive Director of the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association, provided information on the MMBA and their position on the wine with dinner bill.

Barb Sykora

State of Minnesota House of Representatives, discussed her reasons for supporting and carrying this bill.

Nancy Christensen

Executive Director of the Minnesota Grocers Association, provided information on the wine with dinner bill, market studies and the grocers' position.

Ruth Grendahl

Council member City of Apple Valley, provided information on the sources of revenue in the city for 2001.

Jim Farrell

Executive Director for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, provided information on the association and their position on the bill.