

RESOLUTION NO. 144

OPPOSING THE SALE OF WINE AT SUPERMARKETS AND CONVENIENCE STORES IN NEW YORK STATE

Introduced: 4/13/09

By Mr. Steck:

WHEREAS, Independent, small businesses are an important part of our economy because of their ability to support the families who own them and also by giving those families a sense of pride in their accomplishments in running a business, and

WHEREAS, Independent liquor stores have historically operated in a heavily regulated environment that will hamper their future ability to compete with grocery and convenience stores which have not been subject to similar restrictions, and

WHEREAS, Stefan Kalogrides, a resident of Albany County and President of the New York State Liquor Store Association, has stated that New York's 2,600 liquor stores are one of the last independent small businesses to remain in New York State, that liquor stores are prohibited under State law from becoming a chain of more than one store, that liquor stores must be owned by an on-premises single operator, that liquor stores are not permitted to form collective buying groups with other stores to increase their purchasing power, that liquor stores derive 65 to 80 percent of their overall sales revenue from wine, and are not permitted to sell beer, and

WHEREAS, Governor Patterson, in an effort to close an unusually large State budget deficit, has proposed legalizing wine sales in grocery and convenience stores, and

WHEREAS, This legislation will have an adverse impact on thousands of small businesses, including wine cellars, liquor stores, and wineries and that the possible closure of a large number of such businesses would further damage an already weak economy, and

WHEREAS, Many states have chosen not to pursue the policy change proposed by the Governor, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature goes on record against the passage of Assembly Bill A00160 and Senate Bill S60-A, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Albany County Legislature is hereby directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Capital District delegation of the New York State Legislature and the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Audit and Finance Committee. 4/13/09