



DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES

June 18, 2020

Hon. Trey Paradee, Chairman
Delaware Senate Banking, Business
& Insurance Committee
411 Legislative Ave.
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Senator Paradee:

I am writing on behalf of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, the national trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits sold in the United States, in support of House Bill 349, entitled "*An Act to Amend Title 4 of the Delaware Code Relating to Alcoholic Liquors.*"

As you know, in addition to a relaxation of certain licensing requirements, one section of this legislation would allow on-premise beverage alcohol licensees to sell alcoholic beverages to go providing certain conditions are met. (Lines 43-50). These extended privileges would be in effect until March 31, 2021.

Many hundreds of hospitality businesses across Delaware including restaurants, taverns, and bars, were forced to close under Governor Carney's Emergency Orders issued because of the ongoing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. By recent estimates, food and drink establishments in Delaware were forced to lay off nearly two-thirds of their employees statewide, which had a devastating economic impact to these small business employees. The path to recovery from closed doors and limited sales for nearly three months will take a very long time. HB349 would allow these struggling businesses some relief beyond the expiration of the Governor's Emergency Orders. A new normal will be a long time coming for the almost two thousand eating and drinking establishments in Delaware and keeping these businesses viable and employees working will be critical to the economic recovery of the state.

The measures proposed by HB349 are a logical and modest policy proposal. We urge swift consideration in order to aid businesses as they work to recover from the economic hardship brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Jay Hibbard
Vice President Government Relations