

MDDCSAM HB 637 alcohol delivery.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Adams, MD

Position: UNF



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 637 Alcoholic Beverages – Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption.
House Economic Matters Committee. Feb 19, 2024

UNFAVORABLE

The availability of alcohol by home-delivery was expanded during the Covid pandemic as an understandable attempt to protect businesses. However, studies over the last several years have consistently found that home delivery is associated with an increase in alcohol consumption patterns more likely to result in harms such as heavy drinking or binge drinking.

In a study of the effect of home delivery on alcohol consumption volumes, **adults who had alcohol delivered (vs. not delivered) reported consuming 60% more wine, and approximately three times more spirits.** (Trangenstein 2023).

In a 2023 study, **alcohol delivery was associated with six times higher odds of drinking at hazardous/harmful levels.** In addition, persons ≤ 25 years who had alcohol delivered were significantly more likely to report never having their identification verified vs. those purchasing in-person. (Colbert 2023).

In a 2021 study, **alcohol delivery was associated with a 75% greater likelihood of heavier drinking than in-person purchases.** (Huckle 2021).

In 2022, it was found that **individuals having alcohol delivered consumed more drinks, drank on more days, and were nearly two times more likely to engage in binge drinking than participants who purchased alcohol in-person.** The authors conclude that it is important for states to consider the potential public health implications of home delivery. (Grossman 2022).

Alcohol use is the fifth leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. (NIAAA), leading to over 140,000 deaths and 3.6 million years of potential life lost (YPLL) each year in the United States from 2015 – 2019, shortening the lives of those who died by an average of 26 years. Alcohol use was responsible for 1 in 5 deaths among adults aged 20-49 years. (CDC)

Problems associated with alcohol use include high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, digestive problems, cancer (of the breast, mouth, throat, esophagus, voice box, liver, colon, and rectum), dementia, poor school performance, depression, anxiety, social and family problems, unemployment, impaired immune function, and alcohol use disorder. (CDC)

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, Board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine

(continued . . .)

REFERENCES:

Trangenstein PJ, et. al. Characteristics associated with buying alcohol to-go and for delivery during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic among a national sample of US adults. Drug Alcohol Rev. 2023 Jul;42(5):1252-1263.

Colbert S, et. al. Cross-sectional survey of a convenience sample of Australians who use alcohol home delivery services. Drug Alcohol Rev. 2023 Jul;42(5):986-995.

Huckle T, et. al. Online alcohol delivery is associated with heavier drinking during the first New Zealand COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
free: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7753625/>

Drug Alcohol Rev. 2021 Jul;40(5):826-834.
free: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7753625/>

Grossman ER, et. al. Alcohol consumption and alcohol home delivery laws during the COVID-19 pandemic. Subst Abus. 2022;43(1):1139-1144. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35471927/>

NIAA: Understanding Alcohol's Impact on Health | National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Accessed Feb 2024
<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-alcohol-impact-health>

CDC - Alcohol & Public Health - Alcohol Basics
<https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use.htm> (Accessed Feb 2024)

HB637-alc-to-go-ATCN-UNF-2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Raimee Eck

Position: UNF



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy Vision: Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

HB637: Alcoholic Beverages – Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption

Hearing Date: February 19, 2024

Committee: Economic Matters

Position: Unfavorable

On behalf of the Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network, we thank you all for your work to evaluate and establish alcohol regulations that will keep our communities, youth, and other at-risk populations safe. We are opposed to HB637, which would make off-premise sales and deliveries from restaurants, bars, or taverns permanent.

Public health and substance misuse experts and advocates from across the state have shared their concerns on the possibility of making to-go and delivery alcohol sales permanent in Maryland. As a reminder, we supported the legislation in 2021 that extended the Governor’s Executive Order with a sunset of two years and a number of guardrails. The expectation was this was a stop-gap measure temporarily put into place, which has now sunset given the height of the pandemic is passed.

In response to anecdotal evidence that there have been limited problems associated with to-go alcohol sales, this evidence is absent. Due to limited resources and capacity of local liquor boards, robust assessments of this law when it was in effect has not been done. In one mystery shop evaluation performed in Montgomery County very early on, they found that **only 15% of restaurants noted that an ID would be required to pick up an order and 55% of restaurants did not check the ID when the order was picked up.**

Research has found that adults who use alcohol delivery services tend to drink on more days, drink heavier on those days, and report binge drinking more frequently. Delivery services have also been shown to be used to continue drinking sessions when they otherwise would have ended.

In addition to supporting heavier drinking, there is greater risk of increased youth access. Many delivery service laws use point of delivery ID checks. Compliance checks on these systems with underage youth find failure rates up to 58% of the time, compared with traditional brick and mortar businesses, which may have positive compliance rates of 80-99% of the time.

We urge an unfavorable report on HB637.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 150-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing health disparities that plague our state and our nation.