



**TESTIMONY OF COL. ROBERT WILLIAMS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
STATE POLICE**

In Support of L.D. 1436, "An Act To Better Serve the Seasonal Tourist Market during the 2015 Summer Season and Early Autumn with a Pilot Program To Extend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Served"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

June 2, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Senator Cyrway, Representative Luchini and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Bob Williams and I am the Chief of the State Police. I'm here today to speak in favor of L.D. 1436, "An Act To Better Serve the Seasonal Tourist Market during the 2015 Summer Season and Early Autumn with a Pilot Program To Extend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Served."

In researching the issue of extended hours of sales for alcohol, I could not find any data regarding the effects on public safety. However, a quick check of the latest bar hours permitted by state law in other states and Washington DC show that 45 states permit last call after 1 AM. Only one state is earlier than 1 AM and only 4 states have the same 1 AM last call as Maine. While I do not have public safety statistics on those states, if 90% of States have adopted a later last call than Maine, it seems other states have found it acceptable and Maine is an outlier.

In my career I have seen the hours of sales increase for alcohol and cannot say that there has been any detrimental effect on public safety. In fact, the occurrences of OUI, OUI related crashes and fatalities have all declined since the early 1980's.

Regardless of when alcohol stops being served, the responsibility still remains with the patron themselves and the bar owners to effectively police the consumption of alcohol.

This is a pilot program. At the end of it we will examine the effect it has had on public safety.

45 States (incl. DC) permit on premise alcohol sales after 1am

Latest last call by state law	Before 1am	1am	2am	3am	4am or later	No Limit
# of states	1	5	30	7	4	4
Note: Many states do allow municipalities or counties a local option to close earlier or later than state law	Mississippi	Delaware Maine Montana New Hampshire Utah	Alabama Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Idaho Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Nebraska New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Vermont Virginia Washington Wisconsin Oregon (2:30)	Illinois Indiana Missouri Tennessee Texas Wash, DC West Virginia	Hawaii New York Wyoming Alaska (5:00)	Louisiana Nevada New Jersey South Carolina

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