

we make an exception for VFWs, American Legions and those types of operations in statute. They are able to sell spirits from twelve noon on, on Sundays. So, if you happen to be in the business of owning a restaurant, owning a hotel or a motel that happens to usually do a brunch on Sundays, and these are many of the people that have supported this kind of a measure, you're only able to offer beer and wine to individuals from noon on. My bill, LB 354, would allow for spirits to be sold. It would allow for them to order a mixed drink, if you will, just like they can now do if they happen to belong to American Legion or VFW. The argument is that it brings uniformity to the statutes. It is not in any way, shape or form meant to, I guess, offer additional time for alcohol to be sold, it just allows for all alcohol that can be sold to be sold during the same hours. Right now we make a distinction. When we debate bills that deal with chemical dependency we make no distinction amongst different types of alcohol. All I ask is that we make that same distinction or lack of distinction, if you will, when we allow the time of sale to take place. All this bill does is allow for that uniformity. It has been advanced out of committee in the past. It has never been designated as a priority and, frankly that is the reason that it has never passed. I find it hard to designate Sunday liquor as a priority bill, and the one time I did have an opportunity to have it over on Final Reading, have it up and have it heard, I was not able to be here. I had to give a commencement speech at a grade school in my district that was closing, and I'd made that commitment prior to knowing what the agenda was, and I kept the commitment. The bill failed on Final Reading, it was a couple votes short. Senator Labeledz was also not able to be here, her brother was dying in the hospital. I just didn't have 25 votes because I wasn't here. The bill has been advanced out, it's been debated year in and year out. The real question with regard to the issue, the policy issue is, is it something that we mandate at the state level? No, we do not. The element of local control is there. We do not take that away. If, at the local level, you currently do not allow for the sale of alcohol on Sundays, that does not change. All this bill does is make it permissive, allow for that local entity of government that controls to be able to, if they choose, allow for spirits to be sold the same time that beer and wine is currently sold on Sundays. It's permissive statute change in the regulation to just allow for uniformity amongst the types of alcohol that are sold. We do not add to the number of hours in terms of reducing it below noon, we keep that the same. Ladies and gentlemen, I think it's time that this bill get an