

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Dade Phelan, Chair  
The Honorable Senfronia Thompson, Vice-Chair  
1100 Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701

Chairman Dade, Vice-Chair Thompson and members of the committee:

My name is Corey Staniscia, and I am vice president of state government relations for the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S., the national trade association representing leading producers and marketers of distilled spirits products. I am testifying today in support of HB 679, a bill to allow seven-day spirits sales.

The state of Texas clearly does not have a problem with the sale of distilled spirits on Sunday. Today there are more than 30,000 restaurants, bars and clubs that are open and sell distilled spirits for on-premises consumption. With the passage of “cocktails to-go” in 2021, the Legislature authorized the ability of the consumer to leave a restaurant with a distilled spirit cocktail and take it home. What the law does not allow is for consumers to stop at a package store and buy the same ingredients to make the same cocktail at home. This does not make any sense.

Seven-day spirits sales give adult consumers increased convenience and the freedom to choose when to buy their favorite spirits products just like they already do for beer and wine. And the decision on what day a business should open should be up to the business owner, not government mandate. This bill does not require anyone to open on Sunday if they choose not to, it only allows liquor stores to choose what day they close based on their individual business model and market demands. It is important to give business owners the power to adjust their days of operation to give consumers what they want.

For example, Chick-Fil-A does not open on Sunday. Not because of a law but because of its own free market business or personal decision. This does not mean that Whataburger also has to close its business on Sunday. Blue laws that limit the days of a week that businesses can open are outdated and not reflective of modern consumer preferences.

HB 679 would simply allow Texans to vote on whether they want to allow package stores in their communities to be able to open on Sunday like all other alcohol retailers. Please support HB 679 and I will answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Corey Staniscia  
Vice President of State Government Relations  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States