

Critics prep to fight repeal of Mass. alcohol tax

BOSTON

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The Committee Against Repeal of the Alcohol Tax says it's ready to wage what it's calling an aggressive public relations campaign to defeat the measure.

The group, which describes itself as an organization of more than 130 public health and health care organizations, said that while basic necessities like clothing and food deserve to be exempted from the state sales tax, alcohol doesn't.

The question is being pushed by the state's liquor stores which opposed the move last year to extend the state's sales tax to alcohol.

They argue that the tax is hurting stores, especially those near the border of tax-free New Hampshire.



Massachusetts alcohol tax debate

Updated: Tuesday, 13 Jul 2010, 12:04 PM EDT

Published : Monday, 12 Jul 2010, 10:05 PM EDT

Barry Kriger (*Transcript of video. Video and transcript are available at:*

<http://www.wwlp.com/dpp/news/local/hampden/massachusetts-alcohol-tax-debate>)

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Article published Jul 13, 2010 (*Link to Telegram story also appeared on usatoday.com:*
<http://content.usatoday.com/topics/article/People/Politicians,+Government+Officials,+Strategists/U.S.+Senators/John+Kerry/03Gjgg0aqZbcp/1>)

Here in new england

Health organizations oppose dropping alcohol tax

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Associated Press, 07.12.10, 05:28 PM EDT

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Southcoasttoday.com

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July 12, 2010 5:40 PM

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--AP



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7/12/2010, 5:24 p.m. EDT

The Associated Press

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REPEAL 6.25 PERCENT TAX ON ALCOHOL SOLD AT PACKAGE STORES (S 2495)

The Senate, 13-24, rejected a proposal to eliminate the 6.25 percent sales tax on alcohol. The tax was approved and signed into law in July 2009 and imposes the tax on liquor, wine and beer purchased at package stores.

Some supporters of the tax said that the state cannot afford this revenue loss which would lead to cuts in important programs. Others argued that they would be amenable to eliminating the tax but wanted to first study its impact.

Opponents said that this new sales tax is unnecessary on a product that is already heavily taxed. They argued that the tax is hurting small mom-and-pop stores and stores in cities and towns on the border of other states with a smaller tax.

(A “Yes” vote is for repealing the tax. A “No” vote is against repealing it.)

Sen. Richard Ross, Yes

Sen. James Timilty, Yes