



# GINA N. CALANNI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

*District 132*

**Committees:** Homeland Security & Public Safety • Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

RE: Request to Suspend Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 14.05(c)

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of our constituents, we respectfully ask you to suspend Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 14.05(c) so that Texas distillers may sell more than two bottles per person within 30 days at their distilleries.

We have heard from many concerned constituents that efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 may force the closure of some Texas distilleries. As you know, the state has seen tremendous growth in its distilling industry in the last decade, going from fewer than 50 distillery permits in 2013 to more than 160 today. Because many of these distilleries are young businesses, their products are not yet widely distributed in package stores. Thus, Texas distilleries rely on sales from their tasting rooms to provide the capital necessary to build their businesses and create jobs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the closure of tasting rooms for over a month, preventing Texans from visiting tasting rooms and purchasing bottles and mixed drinks. As a result, Texas distillers have experienced an 80 percent loss of revenue since COVID-19 mitigation efforts have been instituted. Limited cocktail sales and the two bottle purchase restrictions make it impossible for distillers to generate the revenue necessary to support their operations and employees.

Suspending the restriction on bottle sales is critical to helping this young industry financially survive this pandemic. Distillers estimate that suspending the two bottle limit will increase curbside sales by 35 percent and allow them to re-hire staff — a critical need in this time of rampant unemployment.

Texas distillers are entrepreneurs who care about the wellbeing of their communities and our great state. To date, they have donated over 200,000 gallons of hand and surface sanitizer to first responders, health care workers, and their communities. And now they need our help.



[gina.calanni@house.texas.gov](mailto:gina.calanni@house.texas.gov)

**Capitol Address:** P.O. Box 2910 • Room E2.302 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 • 512-463-0528 • 512-463-7820 Fax

**District Office:** 1550 Foxlake Drive, Suite 120 • Houston, Texas 77084 • 281-492-0684



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We understand the public health necessity in closing tasting rooms to visitors, but limiting the number of bottles sold via curbside pick-up provides no public health benefit during the COVID-19 outbreak. We respectfully ask that you suspend this regulation to help the Texas distilling industry in its time of need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (512) 463-0528.

Sincerely,

Rep. Gina N. Calanni  
House District 132

Rep. Alma A. Allen  
House District 131

Rep. Rafael Anchía  
House District 103

Rep. Rhetta Andrews Bowers  
House District 113

Rep. Michelle Beckley  
House District 65

Rep. Diego M. Bernal  
House District 123

Rep. Kyle Biedermann  
House District 73

Rep. Lorraine Birabil  
House District 100

Rep. John H. Bucy III  
House District 136



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Rep. Travis Clardy  
House District 11

Rep. Nicole Collier  
House District 95

Rep. Alex Dominguez  
House District 37

Rep. Anna Eastman  
House District 148

Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins  
House District 120

Rep. Jessica González  
House District 104

Rep. Vikki Goodwin  
House District 47

Rep. Gina Hinojosa  
House District 49

Rep. Celia Israel  
House District 50

Rep. Stan Lambert  
House District 71

Rep. Ray Lopez  
House District 125

Rep. J.M. Lozano  
House District 43

Rep. Armando "Mando" Martinez  
House District 39

Rep. Terry Meza  
House District 105

Rep. Ina Minjarez  
House District 124



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Handwritten signature of Sergio Muñoz, Jr.

Rep. Sergio Muñoz, Jr.  
House District 36

Handwritten signature of Evelina "Lina" Ortega.

Rep. Evelina "Lina" Ortega  
House District 77

Handwritten signature of Ana-Maria Ramos.

Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos  
House District 102

Handwritten signature of Ron Reynolds.

Rep. Ron Reynolds  
House District 27

Handwritten signature of Ramon Romero, Jr.

Rep. Ramon Romero, Jr.  
House District 90

Handwritten signature of Jon Rosenthal.

Rep. Jon Rosenthal  
House District 135

Handwritten signature of Carl Sherman.

Rep. Carl Sherman  
House District 109

Handwritten signature of James Talarico.

Rep. James Talarico  
House District 52

Handwritten signature of Ed Thompson.

Rep. Ed Thompson  
House District 29

Handwritten signature of Tony D. Tinderholt.

Rep. Tony D. Tinderholt  
House District 94

Handwritten signature of James White.

Rep. James White  
House District 19

Handwritten signature of Erin Zwiener.

Rep. Erin Zwiener  
House District 45



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