



"Cocktails for Commonwealth" Movement Hits Beacon Hill

Restaurants could sell sealed containers of mixed drinks with to-go orders under a bill filed by a senator from Methuen. The emergency preamble on Sen. Diana DiZoglio's bill (SD 2952) says its purposes is "to expand revenue-generating options in response to the COVID-19 economic crisis for local establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages." A law Gov. Charlie Baker [signed on April 3](#) allows restaurants and bars to sell limited quantities of beer and wine, in their original containers, with takeout and delivery orders. Restaurants remain barred from serving customers in their dining rooms under a March order from Baker. Some restaurateurs and bartenders have been advocating to be allowed to serve cocktails with their takeout orders as well, a measure that has been allowed in some other states, including Rhode Island. An online "Cocktails for Commonwealth" [petition](#) had more than 400 signatures as of Monday morning. Asked last Tuesday if he'd consider allowing to-go cocktail sales, Baker mentioned the new beer and wine law. "Anything beyond that would require legislation, and I don't think there's anything pending on that at this point," he said. DiZoglio's bill, filed last Wednesday, would allow restaurants that are licensed to serve alcohol to sell "prepared beverage and mixed drinks" -- defined as a sealed container holding between 4 and 64 fluid ounces of liquor and mixer, combined at the restaurant -- to accompany to-go food orders. The bill is cosponsored by Republicans Rep. Lenny Mirra of West Newbury, Sen. Patrick O'Connor of Weymouth and Rep. David DeCoste of Norwell, and Democrats Sen. Anne Gobi of Spencer, Rep. Mike Connolly of Cambridge and Rep. David Robertson of Tewksbury. The Senate on Monday referred it to the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee for review. - Katie Lannan/SHNS