

SB 314 (WIENER): BAR AND RESTAURANT RECOVERY ACT

POSITION: The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT the bill on April 13, 2021. The Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT the bill on April 22, 2021.

RATIONALE: SB 314 streamlines and relaxes the regulatory environment for one of the hardest hit industries.

STATUS: SB 314 was introduced by Senator Scott Wiener on February 4, 2021 and has since been referred to the Assembly.

SUMMARY

SB 314 presents a series of legislative fixes to support the recovery of music venues, bars, and restaurants. The bill would: allow for bars and restaurants to share commercial space with non-alcohol-serving businesses (i.e. a bar sharing space with a café that operates during the day and/or allowing for two different bars to operate within one commercial space with different alcohol licenses); streamline the alcohol license process by capping appeals and protest hearings and expediting certain licenses when the business already has a different type of license; create a new entertainment venue liquor license specific to music venues; and allow for cities and counties to create "open container entertainment zones."

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

SB 314 will impact the restaurant and hospitality industry.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The hospitality and tourism industry have had significant impacts due to COVID. As part of a series of bills to help spur recovery, SB 314 targets some of the more complicated regulations from the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control and relaxes restrictions on businesses that serve alcohol.

SUPPORTERS

- California Restaurant Association
- City of Murrieta
- City and County of San Francisco

OPPONENTS

- None known at time of writing

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

According to the City of Murrieta, this bill will be an important boost for small businesses that have been heavily burdened by restrictions caused by the pandemic.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

Relaxing the ability of ABC to enforce restrictions or to perform due diligence on additional liquor licenses could be damaging to more urban areas that have a higher number of alcohol-serving establishments, and put additional pressure on local law enforcement.