

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

The 2021 Connecticut General Assembly's regular session came to a close Wednesday, June 9th. Over 140 proposals were tracked this year for the Connecticut Restaurant Association. Many successes were proactive agenda items for the CRA and the business community alike.



MAJOR SUCCESSES

- Outdoor Dining
- Alcohol-To-Go
- Sales Tax Retention
- Unemployment Compensation Reform
- Layoffs and Unemployment Compensation Experience Account
- Third Party Delivery Companies

KEY BILLS

HB 6610: AN ACT CONCERNING THE OUTDOOR SALE OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE.

CRA worked with Leadership to pass legislation expanding Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7MM, which allows expedited approval for outdoor food and beverage permits.

HB 6100: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPT. OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT, ANTITRUST ISSUES AND THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA AND REVISIONS TO THE LIQUOR CONTROL ACT.

The CRA worked with state legislators to pass alcohol-to-go, which extends for three years.

SB 1202: AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Creation of Sales Tax Retention Week which allows restaurants to keep 100% of the 7.35% sales tax on meals and beverages during one of the following weeks:

- August 1 - 7, 2021
- December 12 - December 18, 2021
- May 15 - May 21, 2022

HB 6602: AN ACT CONCERNING THIRD-PARTY DELIVERY SERVICES FOR RESTAURANTS

CRA and the Commerce Committee worked to pass legislation requiring written consent when a third-party company wants to use a restaurant's name and likeness.

HB 6633: AN ACT RESTRUCTURING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS AND IMPROVING FUND SOLVENCY

Bill reforms the state's unemployment insurance compensation system. Increases the minimum weekly benefit from \$15-\$40, increases minimum earnings from \$600-\$1600 and increases taxable wage base from \$15,000-\$25,000.