



The Suite News

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SALT LAKE VALLEY LODGING ASSOCIATION

Liquor Laws in the News

The Utah Alcohol & Beverage Control Commission held several public hearings on the current liquor laws and what may need to change. Several groups have expressed concerns over how the laws are hurting business, tourism and the overall effect of our industry.

Many groups have chimed in on how antiquated our laws are and need to be updated, keeping in mind the sensitive nature of this subject in our community and with the Legislature. The Commission is collecting comments and we anticipate some recommendations for changes.

I think it is safe to say that our industry is in favor of changing private club laws. The Hospitality Group is putting forward a referendum on doing away with private clubs as they are know today and replacing it with a the same laws that govern the Airport lounges.

These are areas where people can drink, but don't have to buy food and there are no membership charges. The hospitality group wants to make Private club memberships an option for owners. Fraternal organizations, country clubs and other facilities may choose to continue with their private club organizations but most would probably move to a more (normal) bar/lounge/club feel like

you would find in other parts of the nation. Restaurant licenses would not be affected.

Much of the conversation was aimed at being sensitive to the legislature, DABC and the Church. It is a big political issue and this is an election year so not many politicians will want to take big risks that could compromise

a re-election effort. So, we must be very diplomatic and see if we can influence change slowly and steadily.

It was suggested that everyone be very positive about the impact that this type of change would make in our state. Especially in the areas of Tourism and Economic Development. To due away with some of our "Unique"

laws would go a long ways in making Utah a much stronger international destination.

UTIC sent in the proposed position paper which SLVLA supported.

Utah Tourism Industry Coalition
Position Statement
Liquor Law Changes for Utah

Rationale: Because tourism represents a \$6 billion dollar industry in Utah generating over 113,000 jobs, and because Utah has made a strong commitment to tourism economic development; the Utah Tourism Industry Coalition (UTIC) supports specific changes to current liquor laws to properly service Utah's increasing number of tourists and visitors.

Declarations:

1. UTIC supports the strong enforcement of laws governing driving while under the influence of alcohol.
2. UTIC supports the enhancement of efforts to decrease underage consumption of alcoholic beverages.
3. To provide a more hospitable experience for our visitors, UTIC supports the elimination of the

membership requirement for private clubs, as the regulations governing these facilities have caused much confusion and increased misperceptions about getting an alcoholic beverage in Utah.

4. We believe that the glass wall required in restaurants should be eliminated, and that restaurants should be able to serve alcoholic beverages over the bar to customers.
5. UTIC supports the development of one comprehensive liquor license for Utah's hotels and resorts to eliminate confusion to guests.
6. UTIC supports the elimination of the "intention" to dine requirement to obtain an alcoholic beverage at restaurants.
7. UTIC supports consistent hours for availability of alcoholic beverages in licensed facilities.

This position has been adopted unanimously by the UTIC Executive Committee on 11 June 2008, and is also supported by Salt Lake Valley Lodging Association and many other tourism industry partners. The Salt Lake Valley Lodging Association sent our own response as well.



Pets Allowed? Yes or No?

The State Health Department is proposing changes in the requirements of disclosure concerning pets in hotel rooms. Current rules do not allow any pets in rooms. The proposed rule would allow pets with certain restrictions and notifications to guests. The proposed rule has had public comment and is now awaiting any changes proposed by the Department.

If you haven't seen the proposal, here is a copy. Only the section of the rule that affects pets is included.

R392. Health, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, Environmental Services.

R392-502. Hotel, Motel and Resort Sanitation.

R392-502-1. Definitions.

Director - shall mean the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health.

Hotel, Motel or Resort - shall include tourist court, motor hotel, resort camps, hostels, lodges, dormitories and similar facilities, and shall mean every building, or structure with all buildings and facilities in connection, kept, used, maintained as, advertised as, or held out to the public to be, a place where living accommodations are furnished to transient guests or to groups normally occupying such facilities on a seasonal or short-term basis.

Hotel, Motel or Resort Units - shall mean accommodations to serve

two or more people. "Pet" means a domesticated companion animal that is not included in the definition of a service animal or support animal under federal or state law that allows access of the animal to hotel, motel, and resort facilities.

"Pet Friendly" means the designation of certain guest rooms or all guest rooms by an owner or operator to allow pets to stay in a guest room with the guest.

Wastewater - shall mean discharges from all plumbing facilities such as rest rooms, kitchen, and laundry fixtures, either separately or in combination.

6.13 ~~[No pets, other than Seeing Eye dogs, shall be allowed in hotel, motel, or resort rooms.]~~ Pets are not permitted



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in dining areas, or in swimming pool areas. Pets are not permitted in guest rooms that are not designated as pet friendly.

PETS ALLOWED
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Election Year Actions

With this being an election year, it is important that every person get out and vote. If you don't know who your Representative or Senator is, or who is running against them, you need to call them. Find out what their positions is concerning issues in our industry. They will welcome your phone call. They want to know what their constituents want from them and what issues are important. If they ask you a question you don't know the answer to, tell them you will call them back with some good information.



If you know them and have developed a relationship with them, please let us know. It really helps when we need to lobby issues for you to drop your name as one of their constituents. With a lot of new faces on Capitol Hill this year, it will be more important than ever to help us develop the relationships with lay government officials. We need your help to do that and get the most out of our efforts.

I find it always interesting how much people stand up and pay attention to what is going on with our troops across the globe and helping to establish or keep democracy going; fighting for people to have a voice; people putting their lives in jeopardy to vote, and yet

Utah has the lowest voter turnout anywhere in the US. It is time to change that and make sure that not only you commit to get out and vote but start now to get all your employees and those you do business with to also get out and vote. It will make a difference.

Value in Participation

Have you had the experience of participation and how an organization can effect your business? What influence does government have over your industry? What will the future bring? How can I take advantage of the resources available to my business? All these questions can be answered in one word, Associations. It doesn't matter what industry you are in, working together makes a difference. Strength in numbers works. Associations are advancing America all across the world.

Some businesses will wait and hope they have a lot of luck. LUCK stands for Labor Under Correct Knowledge. Participating in your industry produces LUCK. Experience how participating will help you discover things you did not know about your industry. Let it help open doors to your success and earn the benefits of participation.



Sometime businesses don't participate because of four factors, fear, greed, ego, or guilt. It is important to put these aside and participate with your peers. You will benefit many times over what your investment in time and effort will be.

PETS ALLOWED

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(a) Each operator must make a pet-oriented election for each facility and post at the registration desk one of the following four signs appropriate to the election:

(i) An operator may elect not to allow any pets in the facility. An operator who makes this election shall post a sign at the registration desk that reads: "NO PETS ALLOWED IN THIS FACILITY".

(ii) An operator may elect to allow pets in all guest rooms of the facility. An operator who makes this election shall post a sign at the registration desk that reads: "PETS ALLOWED IN ALL GUEST ROOMS".

(iii) An operator may elect to allow pets in all guest rooms of the facility, except as posted at specific guest rooms. An operator who makes this election shall post a sign at the registration desk that reads: "PETS ALLOWED IN ALL GUEST ROOMS EXCEPT IN ROOMS POSTED WITH 'NO PETS ALLOWED'". An operator who makes this election shall also post a sign at the entrance to the room in a position clearly visible on entry into the room. The sign shall use the words, "NO PETS ALLOWED" in upper case letters at least three-quarters of an inch, 1.9 centimeters, in height

(iv) An operator may elect not to allow pets in any guest room of the facility, except as posted on specific guest rooms. An operator who makes this election shall post a sign at the registration desk that reads: "NO PETS ALLOWED IN GUEST ROOMS EXCEPT IN ROOMS POSTED AS 'PET FRIENDLY'".

An operator who makes this election shall also post a sign at the entrance to the room in a position clearly visible on entry into the room. The sign shall use the words, "PET FRIENDLY ROOM" in upper case letters at least three-quarters of an inch, 1.9 centimeters, in height

(b) The operator shall post the facility election sign required by subsection (a) at the registration desk in clear view to each potential guest who presents at the registration desk. This may require more than one sign to be posted at the registration desk. The sign shall be in upper case letters at least 1 inch, 2.54 centimeters, in height.

(c) The signs at the guest rooms in a facility that allows pets in a limited number of guest rooms shall be placed in a position clearly visible upon entry into the room.

(d) All signs must be easily readable and must not be obscured in any way

(e) The operator shall ensure that accumulations of pet hair, fur, feathers, feces, and soiled bedding are removed from rooms at least once per day or as



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often as necessary to prevent unsanitary conditions or odors. Where available, the operator shall designate an outdoor area on the premises of public hotel, motel, and resort facilities for pet walking. The operator shall keep the premises, including pet walking areas, free of pet waste. If an area for pet walking is impractical or not available, the operator shall:

(i) require pet owners to keep pets in portable kennels; or

(ii) keep pets diapered; or

(iii) provide pet waste bags for pet owners to use to dispose of pet waste produced while walking their pets while out of doors.

(f) If an operator of a public hotel, motel or resort facility chooses to modify the status of a room from a pet friendly room to a non-pet friendly room, the operator shall perform a full deep cleaning of the room in a

manner likely to remove the allergens. The deep cleaning shall include shampooing of carpets, laundering of bedding, laundering of drapes, washing of all walls, and cleaning of all other objects and surfaces that may harbor allergens.



We Need Your Input

If you have a story or article that you would like to share with other members of the lodging industry please send them to jjones@idsinfo.com or mail them to the Association office at: **7414 So. State St. • Midvale, UT 84047**

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