

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 349**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Mike Connolly*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a commission to consider happy hour in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/16/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 349**

---

By Representative Connolly of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 349) of Mike Connolly for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to examine repealing restrictions on the offer and sale of discounted alcoholic beverages. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing a commission to consider happy hour in the Commonwealth.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. (a) There shall be a special legislative commission established pursuant to  
2 section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws to examine repealing restrictions on the offer and  
3 sale of discounted alcoholic beverages by persons licensed pursuant to chapter 138 of the  
4 General Laws.

5           (b) The special legislative commission shall consist of: the house and senate chairs of the  
6 joint committee on community development and small businesses, who shall serve as co-chairs;  
7 1 member of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
8 representatives; 1 member of the senate, to be appointed by the senate president; 1 person with  
9 experience or expertise related to alcohol licensing, to be appointed by the governor; 4 members  
10 of geographically-diverse business improvement districts, as defined in section 1 of chapter 400  
11 of the General Laws, main streets organizations or chambers of commerce, jointly appointed by  
12 the co-chairs; the president and chief executive officer of The Massachusetts Restaurant

13 Association, Inc. or their designee; 1 person with industry expertise in alcohol distribution,  
14 jointly appointed by the co-chairs; 1 member of Massachusetts Citizens for Happy Hour; and the  
15 executive director of the Massachusetts affiliate of Mothers Against Drunk Driving or their  
16 designee.

17 (c) The special legislative commission shall: (i) review and evaluate state and federal  
18 laws, regulations and legal advisories regarding the promotion and discounted sale of alcoholic  
19 beverages, including those in the state of Illinois; (ii) analyze how changes to the Massachusetts  
20 laws might aid restaurants and bars in their economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19  
21 pandemic; (iii) examine how any proposed changes may be enacted with a primary focus on  
22 public safety, including but not limited to the incorporation of ride sharing services and other  
23 technology, messaging and training; (iv) assess changing trends in the workplace, including the  
24 likelihood of expanded “work-from-home” policies and how current trends may impact future  
25 business patterns at restaurants and bars; (v) consider the needs of different regions of the  
26 commonwealth and different types of restaurants and bars within the context of the overall  
27 hospitality industry; and (vi) assess the potential impacts casinos have on the alcohol sales of  
28 nearby restaurant and bar.

29 (d) Not later than April 1, 2026, the commission shall submit a report of its findings,  
30 including recommendations for legislation, if any, with the clerks of the house of representatives  
31 and the senate.