



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## WINE DOGGY BAG BILL PASSES COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY

**Madison...** State Representatives Don Pridemore (R-Hartford), Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) and Bob Ziegelbauer (D-Manitowoc) say that a bill that allows Wisconsin adults to take an unfinished bottle of wine home from a restaurant passed its first major hurdle. Assembly Bill 619, "the Wine Doggy Bag Bill" passed the Assembly Committee on Small Business unanimously.

"This is where personal freedoms and personal responsibilities meet," said Pridemore. "This bill will allow adults to make decisions based upon good judgment and common sense"

AB 619 allows consumers who have purchased a bottle of wine with a meal to take it home with them if they are unable to finish it. Pridemore says that this bill will make our roads safer while increasing personal freedoms. It is not opposed by MADD or law enforcement.

"I salute all the members of the small business committee, on both sides of the aisle for their support," said Pridemore. "It is obvious that they understand the importance of rights and responsibilities."

Rep. Van Roy says that more than 30 other states already allow their citizens to take unfinished bottles of wine home. Wisconsin's bill will require that the wine be purchased with food and the bottle be recorked before the consumer leaves the restaurant.

"This is one way for Wisconsin to quit acting as a nanny state," said Van Roy. "Let's put a cork in the law that prohibits adults from being treated like adults."

Van Roy says that AB 619 is supported by the Wisconsin Restaurant Association because it benefits small mom and pop restaurants whose business would be bolstered by higher wine sales. He sees the bill as a double positive because it will help businesses and reduce drunk driving as more people feel less pressure to finish bottles of wine.

"A consumer who pays \$25 or more for a bottle of wine is going to feel some pressure to finish it even if they have to drive and maybe shouldn't," said Van Roy. "This way that they can recork the bottle, put it in their trunk and take it home for later."

Rep Ziegelbauer says that AB 619 now moves on for a vote before the full Assembly. It must still pass the State Senate before being signed into law.

"This bill is a small but important step toward supporting personal responsibility and accountability," added Ziegelbauer. "I am pleased to support it."

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