Support SB 18-067 to Clarify Auction Rules for Alcohol at Special Events!

Sponsored by Senator Rachel Zenzinger (D-Arvada), Senator Kevin Priola (R-Henderson) and Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D-Arvada)

Why is this important?

It’s common for nonprofits to auction off containers of alcohol at fundraising events. With so many quality microbreweries, distilleries, and wineries in Colorado, alcohol can be a popular item with donors who attend these events.

But in Colorado, venues with liquor licenses are typically prohibited from having outside alcohol brought onto or removed from the premises, even if the containers are sealed. As a result, nonprofits may be fined by liquor enforcement or venues may establish stringent rules to prevent any potential liability for outside alcohol.

What does the bill do?

Nonprofit, fraternal, religious, or philanthropic organizations, or state institutions of higher education will be permitted to auction off sealed containers of alcohol for fundraising purposes.

The organization must either apply for a special event permit, be exempt from a special event permit requirement, or hold the fundraising event at a venue licensed to sell alcoholic beverages. The alcohol must be sealed when it is brought to the event, and must remain sealed until the alcohol is brought home by the donor.

This bill provides a unique opportunity for nonprofit organizations to increase donations by including alcohol in their fundraising events without violating the law. Provided alcohol containers remained sealed until brought home by the donor, it exempts nonprofits from the fine that is typically applied to violations of liquor licenses.

Contacts:

Edie Busam, Aponte and Busam, (303) 523-6236, ebusam@aponte-busam.com

Kachina Weaver, Aponte and Busam, (303) 883-7076, kweaver@aponte-busam.com

Mark Turner, (303) 813-4203, mturner@coloradononprofits.org