



North Dakota Senate

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Chairman Louser, Vice Chair Ostlie and members of the House IBL Committee. For the record, my name is Jeff Barta, and I am the Senator representing District 43 in Grand Forks. I stand before you today to introduce SB2363. This bill is seeking to clarify language that was passed last session that added brewpubs as an establishment that could allow minors into their establishment that serve alcohol, provided:

- a) They are not sitting at the bar
- b) They are with their parents or guardians
- c) They are not present after 10 pm.

This was a great bill that has benefited the craft brewing industry, however, the language included "in establishments that serve food." Brewpubs, by definition, offer food and therefore fall under this code.

This language, unfortunately, has left brewer taprooms on the outside looking in. By definition, taprooms do not have a kitchen and do not serve food, unless they contract with a food truck. North Dakota currently has 10 licensed defined taprooms in the state, several of which would like to be able to welcome families if they so choose. Some of these taprooms often host live music, trivia, parties, and large events such as receptions. They are often asked by their patrons if their kids, as well as young adults, would be able to attend some of these events and they would like to be able to tell them yes.

Some of these taprooms are found in communities bordering Minnesota where this exception is already in place and people are used to bringing their kids with them to brewer taprooms. This has created some issues for taproom owners as they have to turn that

business away. I believe this bill will allow this segment of small businesses to grow within our state. Craft brewing is a growing industry, and in a state that grows the best barley in the world, I believe we should do our best to allow these folks to showcase what North Dakota has to offer. Limiting their ability to accept and serve customers puts a cap on their ability to succeed. I say let's pop that cap off for our taproom industry and let their success pour out.

I thank you for your time and will stand for any questions you may have. If none, I am happy to turn the podium over to some folks here who can explain further, how this bill will benefit small businesses here in North Dakota.