



March 19, 2020

Governor Greg Abbott,

In light of the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on small business, particularly on restaurants and bars across Texas, the Houston Young Republicans propose a series of actions to take in order to mitigate the negative economic effects of this crisis.

Houston Young Republicans pride ourselves in our support for and patronage of small, local bars and restaurants. These establishments serve, employ, and are often owned by young people. In order to keep them afloat during these troubling times, we have presented a few suggestions that are intended to create opportunities for new revenue and allow staff retention while also being sensitive to the necessity of social distancing during this time.

We are grateful for your swift decision to permit the delivery of alcoholic beverages to consumers. This crisis requires that leaders pursue nontraditional approaches so that our state can quickly adapt. As the impact of this pandemic continues to be felt across this industry, we hope your office will remain open to additional opportunities for deregulation.

We respectfully request your consideration of the following:

- **Temporarily permit the voluntary sale of alcoholic products to-go across the entire state directly to consumers over the age of twenty-one (21) provided that:**
 - a) Products are provided in a single-use, sealed container and;
 - b) The establishment is an appropriately-licensed restaurant or bar in good standing with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and;
 - c) Products are to be consumed in private residences only - not at the establishment, public facilities, or in a vehicle and;
 - d) Purchases of alcoholic products must be accompanied by a food purchase and;
 - e) The establishment prohibits occupancy in excess of current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended guidance for mass gatherings or large community events – currently this shall not exceed ten (10) individuals (inclusive of staff) and;
 - f) The establishment prohibits and takes all measures to curtail lines forming outside of their entrance.
- **Temporarily permit and tax the voluntary sale of recreational cannabis products to-go across the entire state directly to consumers over the age of twenty-one (21) provided that:**
 - a) The establishment is an appropriately-licensed restaurant or bar in good standing with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and;
 - b) Products are to be consumed in private residences only - not at the establishment, public facilities, or in a vehicle and;
 - c) The establishment prohibits occupancy in excess of current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended guidance for mass gatherings or large community events – currently this shall not exceed ten (10) individuals (inclusive of staff) and;
 - d) The establishment prohibits and takes all measures to curtail lines forming outside of their entrance and;
 - e) Recreational cannabis products should be taxed and regulated in a manner that is roughly consistent with that of alcoholic beverages.
- **Temporarily permit third-party food delivery services to deliver recreational cannabis products to-go directly to consumers at their residence provided that:**
 - a) The third-party deliverer is over the age of twenty-one (21) and;
 - b) That third-party delivery services assume responsibility for verifying the recipient is over the age of twenty-one (21).
- **Work with the Texas Controllor's office to secure a delay of the monthly mixed beverage sales tax for restaurants and bars by at least one month.**

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