

The Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill passed its first reading in Parliament on 10th March 2009.

This Government Bill incorporates the recommended changes resulting from earlier reviews including that of the Sale and Supply to Minors and the Regulation of Alcohol Advertising.

It covers such issues as:

- Providing for councils to adopt or amend Local Alcohol Plans through the special consultative procedure as described by the Local Government Act 2002. The local alcohol plans will be able to specify such things as licensing hours, density, and location of outlets, event management and social impact reporting. These plans will have legal status at Liquor Licensing Authority hearings.
- Grocery outlets smaller than 150m² will now not be granted an off-license unless they meet other criteria, such as there not being another specified store within 10km.
- Preventing larger grocery outlets from selling spirits and ready-to-drinks through concepts such as “store within a store” or having a store adjacent to a store under the same management.
- “Three strikes and you’re out” for those caught selling to minors three times in 2 years.
- Zero tolerance for Blood Alcohol Concentration for youth on restricted licenses
- Moving to “enforced” self-regulation for liquor advertising.

Submissions on the Bill are due by Thursday 23rd April 2009.

Alcohol Healthwatch is preparing for meetings and workshops on the Bill for community and interest groups in the Auckland region and a tool kit will be available to support the submission writing process. Requests for support in areas outside of Auckland may be considered.

For more information or help with submission writing please contact Anne-Marie Coury at Alcohol Healthwatch on (09) 520 7038 or anne-marie@ahw.org.nz