



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE**  
**PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION**  
**DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL LICENSING & RACING &**  
**ATHLETICS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO DRINK SPECIALS**  
**AND BOTTLE SALES**

June 2, 2008

TO: ALL STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND LOCAL CITIES AND TOWN ISSUED  
LIQUOR LICENSEES.

The Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, Division of Commercial Licensing and Liquor Control Section is hereby reminding all licensees serving alcohol to patrons of the following Rhode Island General Laws and Department of Business Regulation, Liquor Control, Regulation 8:

**DRINK SPECIALS:** RIGL § 3-7-26 (b), Certain practices prohibited, states “ No licensee shall advertise or promote in any manner, or in any medium, happy hours, open bars, two-for-one nights and/or free drink specials”. Department of Business Regulation, Liquor Control, Regulation 8, Rule 16, Happy Hour-Retail states “No licensee or employee or agent of an alcoholic beverage license shall sell, offer to sell or deliver to any persons or group of persons any drinks at a price less than the price regularly charged for such drinks during the period of Monday through Friday until 6 P.M. or Friday at 6 P.M. through Sunday”. This extends to Monday holidays if recognized and observed by the State of Rhode Island. A licensee may offer a drink special or specialty drink provided the price of that drink remains the same for the entire above described times during which it is offered.

**BEVERAGE BOTTLE SALES:** RIGL § 3-8-14, Sale of beverages by bottle, states “The department of business regulation shall adopt rules and regulations authorizing the

holders of Class B-V licenses issued pursuant to this title to sell aguardiente by the bottle for consumption on the premises of the license holder...”. Department of Business Regulation, Liquor Control, Regulation 8, Rule 11, Dispensing Alcoholic Beverages – Retail, states “...all alcoholic beverages must be served, dispensed or sold by an employee or owner of a licenses retail liquor establishment. Alcoholic beverages may not be served or dispensed by a patron...”. A licensee may not sell or deliver any alcoholic beverages by the bottle, excluding aguardiente or wine, to any patron, but must serve and dispense the alcoholic beverage by an employee or the owner.

**REMINDER:** A licensee found by the Department to be in violation of the above restrictions could be subject to a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation.