

To: Chair Betsy Hodges and IGR Committee Members

From: Gene Ranieri

Date: April 1, 2008

Re: Extended On- and Off-sale Liquor Sales during Republican National Convention

On March 11, 2008 a bill was introduced that would allow 4 AM closing hours during the Republican National Convention. SF 3642/HF3986 was referred to the Commerce Committees in each body. The bills were not heard. A link to the bill follows <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H3986.0.html&session=ls85>. The bill permitted any city or town in the seven county metropolitan area to authorize the extended hours.

During the markup of the House State Departments appropriation bill, an amendment similar to the SF 3642/HF3986 was added. The amendment to HF 1812 reads as follows:

From August 29, 2008, through September 8, 2008, holders of an on-sale liquor license may remain open and may serve alcohol until 4 AM each day, and holders of an off-sale may be open and sell alcohol between 8 AM and 10 PM on Sunday, under the following conditions:

(1) the holder of an on-sale intoxicating liquor license or the holder of an off-sale liquor license must be located within a city or township, any part of which is within ten miles of the site of the Republican National Convention; and

(2) the licensing jurisdiction where the license is located must have approved the additional hours of sale authorized in this section for all licensees within the jurisdiction.

There is no similar provision in the Senate appropriations bill. Both bills are scheduled to be on the floor within the next week. A conference committee to resolve differences is probable.

The proposed House language limits the extended hours to cities that are located in whole or in part within ten miles of the Excel Energy Center. In addition to Minneapolis the provision will apply to such cities including but not limited to Maplewood, South St. Paul and West St. Paul.

If a city approves the extended hours all on sale and off-sale establishment may be open until 4 AM or sell off sale on the Sunday.

It is possible that the section could be further amended or deleted from HF 1812. However, at this time, there is no indication that an amendment will be offered.