



Justin W. Maynard
Illinois Craft Brewers Guild
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Dear Members of the Illinois Craft Brewers Guild,

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Craft Brewers Guild (ICBG) has come together with a conclusive stance on behalf of Illinois craft breweries regarding growler sales. The Board is not in favor of non-brewers selling growlers to the public.

According to Chapter 235, Liquor Control Act of 1934, Article V, growler fills are allowed under the brewpub and manufacturer licenses but not allowed under retail licenses: 235 ILCS 5/6-22. [Unauthorized filling of original packages prohibited; retail sale other than in original packages prohibited] Sec. 6-22. No person except a manufacturer or distributor, or importing distributor, shall fill or refill, in whole or in part, any original package of alcoholic liquor with the same or any other kind or quality of alcoholic liquor, and it shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession for sale at retail any bottles, casks or other containers containing alcoholic liquor, except in original packages (which are defined in Sec. 1-3.06 as follows): "Original package" means any bottle, flask, jug, can, cask, barrel, keg, hogshead or other receptacle or container, whatsoever, used, corked or capped, sealed and labeled by the manufacturer of alcoholic liquor, to contain and to convey any alcoholic liquor.)

The Board of Directors feels that this existing law remains appropriate, as filling growlers is a well-established right or special privilege in Illinois that brewers (manufacturers) have in order to guarantee and protect the integrity and freshness of their product. The Board of Directors also understands and appreciates the desire of retailers to share this established right with brewers and the common desire by both retailers and breweries alike to sell even more of our great craft beers. Nevertheless, fulfilling those worthy desires cannot come at the expense of risking the integrity or quality of the brewer's product. The law's current requirement that only the manufacturer/brewer can fill and seal original containers protects the consumer, and ultimately the retailers and brewers, by ensuring that the beer purchased by the consumer originated from that particular brewery as intended.

If you have any questions to this statement, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Justin W. Maynard
Executive Director
Illinois Craft Brewers Guild