

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION



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Association of Criminalists-DOJ

Association of Conservationist
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Association of California
Wildlife Officers

Association of Deputy
Commissioners

Association of Motor Carrier
Specialists

Association of Motor Vehicle
Investigators of California

Association of Special Agents-
DOJ

California Alcohol Beverage
Control Agents

California Association of
Criminal Investigators

California Association of Food
& Drug Investigators

California Association of Fraud
Investigators

California Association of Law
Enforcement Employees

California Association of
Regulatory Investigators &
Inspectors

CHP Public Safety Dispatchers
Association

California Organization of
Licensing

Fire Marshal Emergency
Services Association

Hospital Police Association of
California

State Park Peace Officers
Association of California

5/1/26

Senate Governmental Organization
Chair Susan Rubio
1020 N Street, Room 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 342 (Haney) – Extended Alcohol Service Hours – As Amended

Dear Senator Rubio:

On behalf of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) and the California Alcoholic Beverage Control Agents (CABCA), we respectfully oppose AB 342 in its current form. While we understand the intent to promote economic vitality in nightlife and hospitality zones, we must raise serious concerns regarding the bill's lack of a funding mechanism to support the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), which is already operating under strained conditions.

ABC is a self-funded agency that relies entirely on licensing fees to cover personnel and operational costs. Vacancy rates remain high, and the Department is currently managing a substantial caseload involving over 100,000 licensees statewide. AB 342 would create a significant increase in enforcement, oversight, and licensing demands, yet the proposed \$2,500 annual charge for extended hours or condition modifications falls far short of what would be required to support additional agents, licensing representatives, or administrative staff. Without dedicated funding, this measure risks worsening the current staffing crisis and further compromising ABC's ability to protect public safety and fulfill its core responsibilities.

Historically, bills affecting ABC operations have not been accompanied by appropriate staffing resources, based on the assumption that any operational impacts will be absorbed through existing fee structures. In practice, this results in excessive work hours for agents—potentially extending until 4 AM without overtime compensation—further eroding morale and leading to wage disputes and grievances. AB 342 continues this pattern by introducing a new, high-impact workload without corresponding financial support or safeguards.

Additionally, the bill poses broader public safety concerns. Extended service hours have been historically associated with increased DUI incidents, violent crime, traffic collisions, and greater strain on emergency response and law enforcement resources. These risks cannot be mitigated through staffing adjustments alone. Notably, AB 342 originally included a provision dedicating 5% of revenues to support local law enforcement—but this provision was removed, eliminating one of the few proactive tools included in the bill to address downstream public safety challenges.

Finally, the legislation weakens oversight by sidelining the Department's role in evaluating program outcomes. Unlike Business and Professions Code Section 25631.5 (Clippers Arena bill), which requires local jurisdictions to submit data and impact reports to ABC, AB 342 lacks any such reporting obligation to the Department and instead places it within CHP. Without this accountability, ABC is limited in its ability to monitor licensee conduct, assess disorderly house violations under BP 24200, or ensure that public safety is not compromised in practice.

CSLEA and CABCA are open to continued discussion and appreciate the author's willingness to engage. However, without meaningful amendments that address funding, oversight, and enforcement capacity, we must respectfully oppose AB 342.

Sincerely,

Alan Wayne Barcelona
Special Agent, DOJ
President, CSLEA