



New York State Hospitality Industry Unites in Call to Make Alcohol-To-Go Permanent

A coalition of industry leaders and associations voice support for Governor Hochul's proposal

January 19, 2022

ALBANY, NY – On the heels of its inclusion in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget, hospitality industry leaders and statewide associations are uniting in their call for New York State to make alcohol-to-go permanent. In Governor Hochul's State of the State address, she vowed to stimulate the hospitality industry by permitting to-go wine and cocktails from restaurants and bars. She doubled-down on her proposal by releasing details yesterday in her Executive Budget. To-go wine and cocktails provided a necessary financial stream during the pandemic and served as a lifeline to an industry economically devastated by the pandemic.

The measure is supported by:

- New York State Restaurant Association
- Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association
- NYC Hospitality Alliance
- New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association
- Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS)
- NYS Latino Restaurant, Bar & Lounge Association
- Restaurants Organizing Advocating Rebuilding (ROAR)

Under New York's state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants and bars were allowed to sell alcoholic beverages to-go. However, once the emergency order ended, so did the policy allowing restaurants and bars to continue this needed and reliable revenue stream. A [survey](#) conducted by the New York State Restaurant Association in 2021 found that 78% of New Yorkers support changing the state law to permanently allow to-go alcoholic beverages.

"The time is now for New York State to take lessons from the pandemic to pave a better path forward. Alcohol-to-go boosted sales during the pandemic and gained strong public support. It is a simple policy change that provides a battered industry with a reliable revenue stream to keep their doors open. We applaud Governor Hochul's leadership on the issue and look forward to continue working with her team to see this through," **said Melissa Fleischut, President and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association.**

"Governor Hochul's proposal to allow alcohol-to-go from restaurants and taverns is a critically needed measure as the industry continues to struggle. The pandemic accelerated change across all facets of life, and New Yorkers now expect to be allowed to recreate the dining experience in their own homes with alcoholic beverages from their favorite restaurant. We applaud the Governor for advancing this popular and necessary proposal and ask the Legislature to support it," **said Scott Wexler, Executive Director of the Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association.**



“Budgets often represent governments’ key priorities and vision for the future, and we applaud Governor Hochul for making small business support, including bringing back to go drinks, a central part of her plan to help New York’s ailing restaurants. Permanently bringing back to go drinks provides an important revenue stream to many restaurants and bars facing unprecedented challenges, and the policy is extraordinarily popular with New Yorkers who could get their favorite cocktail delivered to their door with dinner. We commend Governor Hochul for her strong leadership on behalf of the hospitality industry, and we look forward to working with lawmakers to enact this small business relief, and many more supportive polices in the future,” **said Andrew Rigie, Executive Director of the NYC Hospitality Alliance.**

“We are immensely grateful to Governor Hochul who has actively promoted the critical revenue source that is alcohol-to-go. New York State food, beverage, and tourism industries heavily rely on positive reinforcements that encourage residents and visitors alike to engage in activities across our state as the pandemic continues to impact businesses. We are thankful to have her in our corner and look froward to working with the Executive Chamber to make this a reality,” **said Mark Dorr, President of the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association.**

“New York’s hospitality businesses were completely devastated by the pandemic and continue to face the harsh economic impacts of COVID-19. Alcohol to-go allowed many restaurants, bars and distilleries to keep their doors open and their workers employed. Unfortunately, there is still a long road to recovery for these businesses that will last long beyond the end of the pandemic. We appreciate Governor Hochul’s leadership in this area and her dedication to making alcohol to-go permanent in support of New York’s hospitality businesses,” **said Jay Hibbard, Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS) Senior Vice President of State Government Relations.**

“The NYS Latino Restaurant Bar & Lounge Association commends Governor Hochul’s effort to ‘jump start’ the restaurant industry and the economies of scale for small businesses in general. ‘Liquor-to-Go’ provided a huge economic boost for restaurants last year during the Covid-19 pandemic and we’re confident it will have the same effects for restaurants going forward. The Governor and her team are working with our business communities to promote change as evidenced in this new Budget for 2022,” **said Arelia Taveras, Executive Director of the NYS Latino Restaurant, Bar & Lounge Association.**

“This pandemic has continued to hit the restaurant industry particularly hard, and with Governor Hochul’s leadership, To-Go alcoholic beverages will once again be at the forefront of issues when the legislature is back in session. We at ROAR are grateful to the Governor for putting the survival of the industry front and center by prioritizing this critical revenue stream. By bringing back all To-Go alcoholic beverages, many small businesses across the State will be able continue to hire and retain essential workers, a tenant of ROAR’s mission. We look forward to collaborating with the legislature to make this a reality,” **said Restaurants Organizing Advocating Rebuilding (ROAR).**