

California bar bill to extend last call to 4 a.m. introduced for fourth time



State Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Matt Haney have introduced legislation that would allow seven cities to extend alcohol sales at bars, nightclubs and restaurants to 4 a.m. Douglas Fruehling

By [Serene Chang](#) – Staff Reporter, San Francisco Business Times Jun 9, 2022

State Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Matt Haney introduced legislation last week that would allow certain California cities to extend alcohol sales at bars, nightclubs and restaurants to 4 a.m.

Senate Bill 930 would permit, but not require, last call to extend from 2 a.m. to as late as 4 a.m. in seven California cities who requested to be included in this five-year pilot program: San Francisco, Oakland, Coachella, West Hollywood, Cathedral City, Fresno and Palm Springs.

Cities ultimately choosing to extend last call hours will be required to undergo a community outreach process, work with law enforcement, and create public safety and transportation plans.

This would be Wiener's, D-San Francisco, fourth attempt to push forward similar legislation. Prior failed attempts include SB384 in 2017, SB905 in 2018, and SB58 in 2019, as we've previously reported on.

SB930 has sparked debate among politicians and community members, all providing passionate responses to the saying: "Nothing good ever happens after 2 a.m."

Nightclub supporters, business owners and tourism associations have openly supported the bill, with Alcohol Justice, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and other local watchdog groups voicing opposition.

Wiener and Haney cited the bill's potential to reinvigorate struggling nightlife establishments from the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly those serving marginalized communities like the LGBTQ+ community.

"Covid has impacted all of California's economy, but nightlife has been especially hard hit," Haney stated in a release. "We've lost so many historic venues and bars, it is going to take years to rebuild. We need to do everything we can to support and encourage this part of our culture and economy. Extending hours to 4 a.m. even a few days a week will save historic businesses, create thousands of jobs, and support arts, culture and community."

Watchdog groups, particularly Alcohol Justice, expressed concern over SB930's potential to spur increased violence, traffic deaths, and alcohol abuse, particularly within the LGBTQ+ community.

"We will continue to fight for justice for the LGBTQ+ community as we convince legislators in Sacramento and in the districts to take bold positions to protect the lives of all Californians and not continue to choose corporate profits masked as small business and 'nightlife' promotion," said Mayra Jimenez, advocacy manager at Alcohol Justice, in the group's press release. "That is a farce for big alcohol to keep drowning our most vulnerable communities with toxic substances that have historically left our communities with devastating health outcomes."

The city and county of San Francisco is supporting SB930, according to Wiener's office.

Los Angeles Magazine added that Wiener said he is "hopeful" Gov. Gavin Newsom will be receptive to the proposal due to his background in the restaurant and nightlife industry.

The pilot program would begin in 2025, allowing the extension of last call to be renewed or discontinued after five years, if approved by the legislature and governor.