



WORKING GROUP ON ALCOHOL REGULATION POLICY

Meeting. The Working Group on Alcohol Regulation Policy met on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the FFA Enhancement Center on the DMACC Campus in Ankeny, Iowa. The Working Group, which was established by the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division (IABD) in cooperation with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), is tasked with taking a comprehensive look at Iowa's current alcohol regulation policy and the challenges that the three-tier distribution system presents for various members of the alcoholic beverage industry.

Discussion. After a brief opening statement by IEDA Director Debi Durham, the Working Group heard two presentations on law enforcement considerations with regard to alcohol regulation policy. The first of these presentations was given by Patrick Hoye, Chief of the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau of the Department of Public Safety. Chief Hoye discussed the State's current impaired-driving trends, noting that in 2015, the average blood alcohol content of individuals involved in alcohol-impaired fatalities was 0.206. The legal level is 0.08. Following Chief Hoye's presentation, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Director Judy Bradshaw shared her experience handling multiple cases of alcohol abuse during her law enforcement career.

The Working Group also heard a presentation on the current state of the distilling industry in Iowa. Garrett Burchett, owner and manager of the Mississippi River Distilling Company, stated that Iowa currently houses 13 licensed micro-distilleries. Ten of these distilleries are located in small communities with a population of 10,000 or less. Burchett also noted that the primary deterrent for micro-distillery growth in Iowa is lack of parity in distillery regulatory laws compared to other surrounding states. Prior to adjournment, the Working Group also heard a presentation by Lynne Omlie of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). The presentation included a discussion focused on the Iowa marketplace and provided suggestions on trade practice reform to encourage growth and recognition of the distilling industry in Iowa.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at the FFA Enhancement Center, located on the DMACC Campus at 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa.

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