



CAPITOL ALERT

Capitol Alert

‘We have enough mischief:’ Jerry Brown vetoes later bar closing times.

BY ANDREW SHEELER

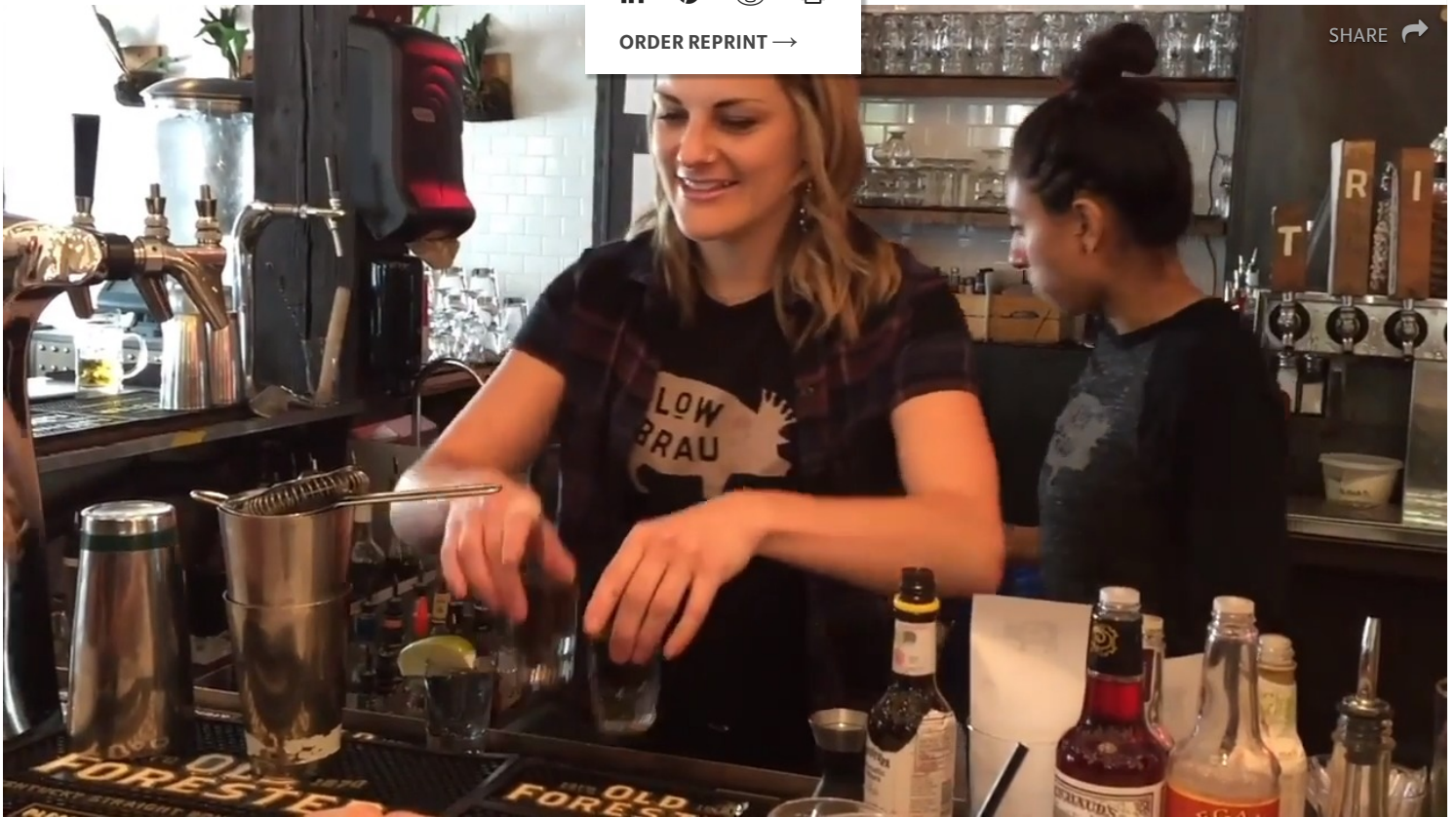


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State Senator Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco, weighs in on his bill that could allow California bars and nightclubs to stay open until 4 a.m.

By Bryan Anderson | Taryn Luna

Gov. Jerry Brown is known to have a drink or two, but he believes there is “enough mischief” at California bars open until 2 a.m.

He vetoed a measure Friday that would have extended last call by two hours in nine California cities.

“Without question, these two extra hours will result in more drinking,” Brown wrote in his veto message. “California’s laws regulating late night drinking have been on the books for decades, and the state has seen more hours of mayhem.”

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Senate Bill 905 by Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco, would have authorized bars in Cathedral City, Coachella, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Palm Springs, Sacramento, San Francisco and West Hollywood to stay open until 4 a.m as part of a pilot program beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

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A restaurant employee describes how extended bar hours may affect workers in the Sacramento industry. Senate Bill 905 in the Cal legislature would allow the city to craft its own rules an

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The bill also required that the California Highway Patrol provide the Legislature with a report on the regional impact of the new law by no later than Jan. 1, 2025. The Legislature then would have had until 2026 to either extend the law or allow it to expire. Brown’s veto message said the CHP believed the bill would result in more drunk driving.

In a statement, Wiener says the law is outdated. “We should embrace and support our nightlife industry which brings billions of revenue to our state and employs millions of people,” he said. “It is a shame that we will continue to stifle our nightlife economy, but I remain committed to modernizing these outdated laws.”

A legislative analysis of the bill identifies several other major cities, including Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York City and others, that also have extended alcohol-service hours.

The bill was opposed by, among other entities, the Alcohol Policy Panel of San Diego County, which issued a statement that cities affected by the bill “will experience increases in alcohol consumption and related problems including violence, emergency room admission, injuries, alcohol-impaired driving and motor vehicle crashes.”

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