

Underage Drinking Legislation

Effective Oct. 1, 2006

Public Act No. 06-112, AN ACT CONCERNING UNDERAGE DRINKING

Previously, Connecticut law prohibited minors from possessing alcohol in public places, but did not prohibit them from possessing alcohol on private property. HB5211 An Act Concerning Underage Drinking addressed this loophole in Connecticut's underage drinking laws by holding both teens and adults accountable for the problem of underage drinking. This bill provides legislative support to parents, who don't expect their children will be allowed to drink alcohol at another parent's home. It sends a consistent message to everyone that underage drinking is unhealthy, unsafe and, unacceptable everywhere. Some important facts to know about the new law:

- ✓ This law does not negate the Local Ordinances, if your city/town's ordinance is more stringent than the state law, local punishments may still apply.
- ✓ This law does not grant police any more power; probable cause is still required before police come to your premises (for example - a noise complaint).
- ✓ The criminal charges for a parent/house owner that is out of town have not changed; but civil liability still applies.

In essence, this law holds youth ages 16-20 who host drinking parties more accountable by charging them first with an infraction, then a misdemeanor.