

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2542**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Kay Khan*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act increasing the excise tax on alcoholic beverages.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2542**

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2542) of Kay Khan, Elizabeth A. Malia and Ruth B. Balser for legislation to increase the excise tax on alcoholic beverages. Revenue.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

An Act increasing the excise tax on alcoholic beverages.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
2 and by the authority of the same, as follows:

3 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the  
4 contrary, the excise on alcohol as described in section 21 of chapter 138 of the General Laws is  
5 hereby amended by striking out, in subsection (a) , the words “three dollars and thirty cents” and  
6 inserting in place thereof the following words:- “six dollars and sixty cents”.

7 SECTION 2. Said Section 21 is hereby further amended by striking out, in subsection  
8 (b), the word “three cents” and inserting in place thereof the following word:— “six cents”.

9 SECTION 3. Said Section 21 is hereby further amended by striking out, in subsection  
10 (c), the words “fifty-five cents” and inserting in place thereof the following word:— “one dollar  
11 and ten cents”.

12 SECTION 4. Said Section 21 is hereby further amended by striking out, in subsection  
13 (d), the words “seventy cents” and inserting in place thereof the following words:— “one dollar  
14 and forty cents”.

15 SECTION 5. Said Section 21 is hereby further amended by striking out, in subsection  
16 (e), the words “one dollar and ten cents” and inserting in place thereof the following words:—  
17 “two dollars and twenty cents”.

18 SECTION 6. Said Section 21 is hereby further amended by striking out, in subsection  
19 (f), the words “four dollars and five cents” and inserting in place thereof the following words:—  
20 “eight dollars and ten cents”.

21 SECTION 7. Said Section 21 is hereby further amended by striking out, in subsection  
22 (g) , the words “four dollars and five cents” and inserting in place thereof the following words:—  
23 “eight dollars and ten cents”.

24 SECTION 8. Chapter 10 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
25 inserting after section 35BB the new following section:-

26 SECTION 35CC. There shall be established and set up on the books of the  
27 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the substance abuse health protection fund.  
28 There shall be credited to said fund all amounts collected under Section 21, subsections (a) to  
29 (g), of Chapter 138 from the sale of alcoholic beverages that are not considered to be sales of  
30 meals, together with any penalties, forfeitures, interest, costs of suits and fines collected in  
31 connection therewith, less all amounts refunded or abated in connection therewith, all as  
32 determined by the commissioner of revenue according to his best information and belief; any  
33 appropriation, grant, gift, or other contribution explicitly made to aid fund; and any income  
34 derived from the investment of amounts credited to said fund; 50 percent of the amounts credited  
35 to such fund shall be expended without further appropriation, by the department of public health  
36 to provide funding, or supplement existing levels of funding, for the following purposes:-

37 (a) For a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program, to be administered by the  
38 department of public health, for the treatment of individuals who are dependent on or addicted to  
39 alcohol or controlled substances, and who lack public or private health insurance that would  
40 provide coverage for such treatment.

41 (b) Subject to the approval of the department of public health, for comprehensive  
42 school health education programs to be administered by the department of education; provided  
43 that such programs shall incorporate information relating to the hazards of alcohol and controlled  
44 substance use; and

45 (c) Subject to the approval of the department of public health, for substance abuse  
46 treatment programs administered by the office of community corrections, the department of  
47 corrections, the department of social services, the department of youth services, and the office of  
48 the commissioner of probation;

49 (d) For community and workplace-based and community substance abuse prevention  
50 and drinking cessation programs, for substance abuse-related public service advertising and for  
51 drug and alcohol education program, to be administered by the department of public health.

52 The commissioner of public health shall annually file a report with the house and senate  
53 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on public health detailing the activity of  
54 the fund.

55           The remaining 50 percent of such amounts shall be expended without further  
56 appropriation by the department of education for the purposes of chapter 70.