



THE THREE-TIER SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACT ON SAFETY

Given the dangers associated with alcohol abuse, effective and thoughtful regulation of alcohol sales is of paramount importance. The three-tier system steadies the flow of alcohol to consumers and is a better way to control the liquor market.

The regulatory statutes enabled by the three-tier system make suppliers, wholesalers, and retailers alike accountable to local communities and keep Texans safe. Retailers and wholesalers are physically inspected and checked to verify that the regulatory system is being followed, that only approved alcoholic beverages are being sold, that alcoholic beverages are not being sold to underage persons, and that taxes are being paid.

States and countries without the three-tier system generally fall into two categories:

- Alcoholic Beverage Control, in which the government directly intervenes by acting as one (or two) tiers for the sale of some (or all) types of alcoholic beverages, thereby unduly interfering in the free market
- Ineffective or unenforced regulatory standards, resulting in public health crises (i.e. tainted alcohol that is produced or “cut” with unsafe substances) and an increased risk of excessive alcohol consumption

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