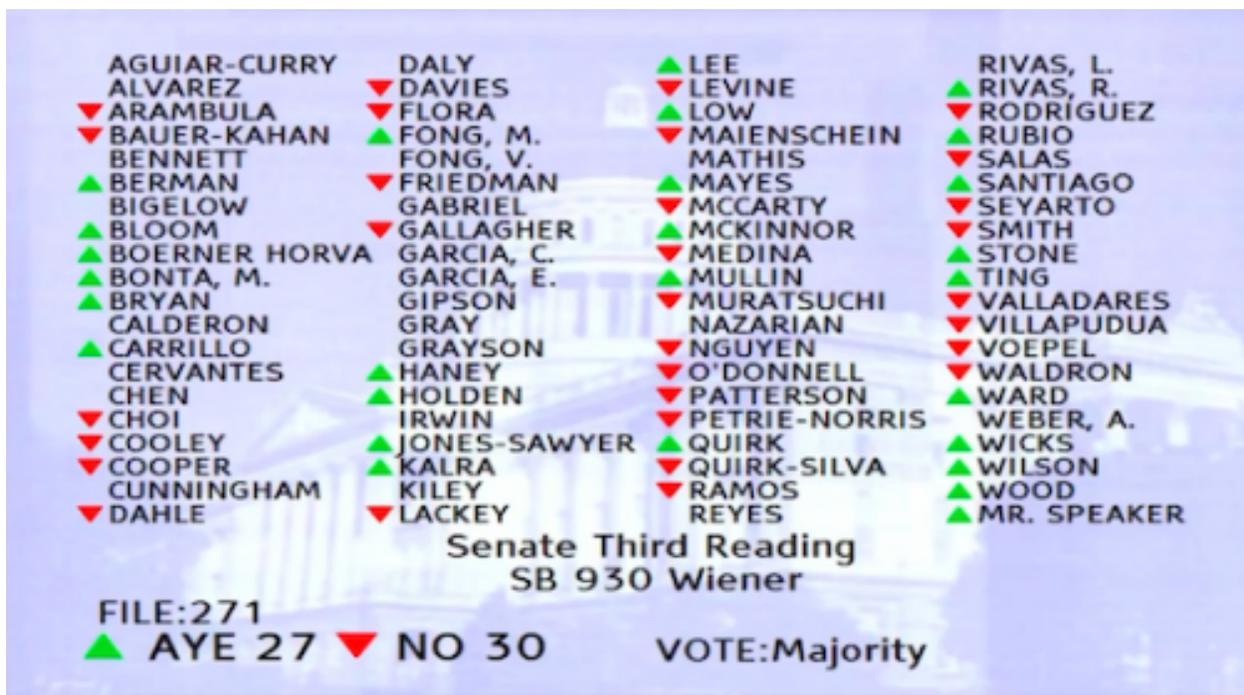


Last call for SB930, California bill aimed at allowing bars to stay open until 4 a.m. fails to pass

08/25/2022



It was last call on Senate Bill 930 "the late night bar bill" in California Wednesday. The state assembly rejected the bill that was a pilot program to allow bars in West Hollywood, San Francisco, and Palm Springs to extend the final call for alcohol at bars, clubs, and restaurants to 4 a.m. on weekends, and 3 a.m. on weekdays.

The "no" votes were 31, 25 voted "yes", and 24 didn't cast a vote. On May 9, 2022, the state senate had passed the bill unanimously 31-0. The assemblyman for South Lake Tahoe, Frank Bigelow, did not vote Wednesday, and during the senate vote, Senator Brian Dahle, who represents South Lake Tahoe, did not vote.

There were originally seven cities on the pilot bill. The Los Angeles City Council publicly opposed SB 930 in early August and they were off the bill. Fresno requested to be removed from the bill due to intense opposition and concerns among Fresno city leaders who then passed a formal resolution of opposition. Oakland, Coachella, and Cathedral City were the others.

California State Senator Scott Wiener has tried to push versions of the late night last call legislature four times since 2017. Elected in November 2016, Wiener represents District 11 which includes all of San Francisco, Broadmoor, Colma, and Daly City, as well as portions of South San Francisco.

Although the bill's authors, Democratic Assemblymember Matt Haney and Wiener, pitched it as a way to help struggling small businesses recover from the pandemic, opponents worried it would cause an uptick in crime, drunk driving, and deaths.

"Senator Wiener's gut & amend bar bill died so that Californians won't," stated Cruz Avila, Executive Director / CEO of [Alcohol Justice](#). "This is a huge victory for California. The Assembly chose the safety of the state's residents and visitors over profits for alcohol-related businesses. I am proud of their actions and of the coalition that fought to oppose this dangerous bill. We implore current and future legislators to never resurrect this faulty concept again."

This bill threatened public safety in Los Angeles - MORE than before because It not only put consumers of alcohol in danger but all the innocent bystanders that would have been impacted," stated Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz who has led the Los Angeles City Council to oppose every version of the 4 A.M. bar bill to date in the name of public safety. "Current data showed we could expect a SPLASH effect of more DUIs, more drunk driving and more deaths in L.A. because drivers are willing to drive 7-40 miles from their Place of Last Drink (POLD). According to the Berkeley, Safe Transportation Research and Education Center, the greatest number of alcohol-involved fatal and severe injuries in California is already concentrated in Los Angeles County."