

Madam Chair and Committee Members, today I am presenting HF 3572 and HF 3573 relating to liquor; authorizing license for on-sale at St. Cloud municipal ice arena, and modifying certain on-sale licenses; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 340A.404, subdivision 1. I want to thank Representative Theis, a co-author of these bills, for offering the amendment that will include the language of HF 3573 into this omnibus bill. Here is some background information on why I am presenting these bills, and why I ask for your support. Thank you.

St. Cloud's philosophy regarding alcoholic beverage service at city sports venues:

- The City of St. Cloud works closely with business partners to enhance the benefits of our public facilities to users and patrons, including concessions operations at sports venues.
- Not all users have the organizational capacity to act as responsible alcoholic beverage vendors, but when possible the city issues licenses to private entities rather than using City employees.
- This model allows the private entity to have more control over their customers' game day experience and relieves the city of the need to operate alcoholic beverage service directly.
- Sporting events are critical to the area's economy and especially the hospitality sector.
- The model has worked very well for the St. Cloud Rox of the Northwoods League and the proposed bills will remove one obstacle to the current service at Joe Faber Field and allow a second such relationship in the city's ice arena.

**H.F. 3572** authorizes the City to issue on-sale wine and beer licenses to a junior league hockey team or a contractor on the premises of the City's Municipal ice arena.

- The St. Cloud Blizzard of the North American Hockey League are new to our Municipal Athletic Complex (MAC), having just completed their first season here.
- Under current law, the only license that the Blizzard could hold would limit them to offering 3.2% beer, which would be a disservice to the team and their patrons.
- Patrons do not prefer 3.2% beer and the stock is very difficult to obtain because Minnesota is now the only state in the nation still requiring it in some instances.
- This provision is modeled on a bill passed in 2014 for the City of Richfield.

**H.F. 3573** amends existing law to allow a license holder serving a summer collegiate baseball team to serve alcoholic beverages at other events at the City's baseball stadium.

- The St. Cloud Rox Northwoods League team has been a treasured part of our community for many years and the city already issues the team a license to dispense alcohol at Joe Faber Field at the MAC. This arrangement has been in place for several years and is beneficial to the team, the city, and the fans.
- The MAC, including Joe Faber Field, is very heavily used by a wide variety of teams and organizations, and numerous tournaments, but current law limits the Rox to serving alcoholic beverages at their own games. And state law prohibits more than one license covering the same geographic area, so no other license can be used.
- This means that other renters of the stadium are unable to have alcoholic beverages available to their patrons.
- This amendment will affect the St. Cloud Rox, but the benefit will primarily be to those other organizations and their patrons.