



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

New law encourages the expansion of "homebrew" beer, wine and cider-making in New York State

THOMAS F. O'MARA November 15, 2016

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Albany, N.Y., November 15--Legislation to encourage the expansion of "homebrew" beer, wine and cider-making in New York State has been signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

The new law (**S.1227B/A1100B, Chapter 422 of the Laws of 2016**) allows for the creation and operation of custom beer, wine, and cider production centers that will rent space and equipment to those looking to produce beer, wine, or cider for home consumption.

“The establishment of these production centers will help enhance and strengthen the foundations of local agriculture, local business and local tourism,” said Senator O’Mara, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “It’s a strong move in support of the industry itself as well as to help increase demand for locally grown farm products and expand industry-related economic development and tourism. It’s a bipartisan effort to recognize a vibrant industry and take an important step toward solidifying the state’s commitment to helping it grow, create more and more jobs, and strengthen other key industries. The craft beer industry offers unlimited economic spin-off opportunities.”

Late last year a report sponsored by the New York State Brewers Association and the New York Wine and Grape Foundation found that in the three years from 2012 to January 2015, the number of craft breweries statewide more than doubled, from 95 to 207. The craft beverage industry now accounts for more than 6,500 jobs in New York and has a \$3.5 billion economic impact. Production has surged more than 50 percent to 859,535 barrels.

The study highlighted that the industry grew by nearly 60 percent between 2013 and 2014 -- and that the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions are now home to more than half of New York’s breweries, brew pubs and related outlets. The **Finger Lakes Beer Trail** was comprised of 24 breweries in 2011. It now includes more than 100 breweries and brew pubs, beer stores, tap houses and tasting rooms.

Read the full announcement **[HERE](#)**.