

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS to allow municipal authorities to ban the sale of nips.

Submitted by: New Haven Environmental Advisory Council

REPORT: 1678-10
ADVICE: Approve

BACKGROUND

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council is requesting that the Board of Alders approve this resolution to request that the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) pass legislation enabling municipalities to ban the sale of nips, which are miniature liquor bottles. There are more nips sold at businesses in New Haven than any other municipality in Connecticut. Empty nip bottles are commonly found in litter in large amounts, with the majority of these bottles being plastic. This litter contributes microplastics to adjacent waterways, including rivers and Long Island Sound.

The Liquor Control Act of 1933 (Chapter 545 of the Connecticut General Statutes) inadvertently prohibits municipalities in Connecticut from banning the sale of nips. In 2024, a bill was proposed to the CGA to authorize municipalities to prohibit the sale of nips in such town by vote of the applicable legislative body of such town following a public hearing on such proposal. This bill was supported by conservation groups and concerned citizens and opposed by alcohol related industries. The bill did not get to a vote in the CGA Environment Committee.

The current request is for the Board of Alders to request the CGA to pass legislation to modify the section of the Liquor Control Act to allow municipalities the right to self-determination on the question of whether the sale of nips should be banned within the City.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This application is in alignment with the following goals and strategies within [Vision 2034](#), **New Haven's Comprehensive Plan**:

Climate and Ecological Connections

Goal 2: Reduce the generation of waste and increase the diversion of recyclables and organics.

- Strategy 2.5: Support state policies and regulatory changes aimed at reducing waste.

Goal 8: Ensure that streams, rivers, and coastal waters are safe and accessible to all.

ADVICE

The City Plan Commission advises the Board of Alders to study the issue further to determine how best to reduce the littering of these kinds of containers.

ADOPTED: February 25, 2026
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department