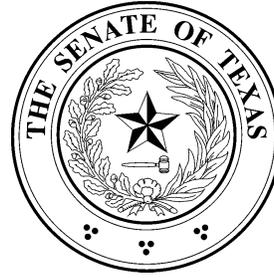


SENATOR  
**KEVIN P. ELTIFE**

District 1  
News Release



May 20, 2013

Contact: Chuck Mains or Margo Cardwell  
(512)463-0101

### **Eltife Craft Beer Legislation Headed to the Governor's Desk**

Austin, Texas -- Today, a package of legislation aimed at job creation and capital investment in Texas by boosting the state's growing craft beer industry overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives. SB 515-SB 518 cleared final passage and will now be sent to the Governor for his consideration. The package of bills passed out of the Texas Senate in March after intense negotiations and compromise between industry stakeholders including distributors, brewers, brewpubs, consumer groups and retailers from across the state.

"It's been 20 years since we have seen a monumental change in craft beer manufacturing and distribution regulations. I am extremely pleased with the passage of these bills," commented the author of the bills, Senator Kevin Eltife (R-Tyler).

SB 515 will allow consumers to purchase brewpub-manufactured products at retail locations, such as bars and restaurants, as well as convenience and grocery stores. SB 518 will allow small breweries to open "tap rooms" for a limited amount of on-site consumption. These new opportunities represent an important new potential source of revenue that can be used to boost business, expand tourism opportunities, and create new jobs. A recent study found the potential for 51,845 new jobs and an economic impact to the state of \$5 billion as a result of this legislation.

SB 516 and SB 517 expand current law to allow for enhanced distribution opportunities for microbreweries engaged in producing beer and ale by raising production limits from 75,000 to 125,000 barrels per year. "Current law has the effect of giving out of state brewers an advantage over Texas brewers in the Texas market. This legislation will finally level the playing field for craft brewers in Texas," Eltife said.

"With the passage of SB 518, breweries around the state will become tourist destinations similar to the wine industry, providing a strong tax base for local communities and the state," Eltife said. .

In 2012, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) approved 25 new licenses for craft breweries and brewpubs in Texas, representing the 3rd largest growth among all states. Yet, Texas still ranks only 45th in breweries per capita among all states. "I expect an explosion of new craft breweries all across the state of Texas with the passage of these bills," said Eltife. "Texas could soon be the epicenter of craft brewing in this country."

"I would like to thank all of the stakeholders for their hard work and willingness to seek compromise on these bills. We would not have been successful if not for the dedicated craft brewing community who worked for several Sessions to pass this important legislation," said Eltife.

###