

Larger text Smaller text | Order Photo Reprints

# Legal opinion clears way for Pa. distributors to sell beer 12 packs

VIDEO

[More Videos](#)



market, but the advent of beer packaging in various sizes led business owners to believe they could expand their offerings beyond the traditional kegs or cases.

The LCB had not ruled on the question of selling 12 packs because nobody asked, said Rodrigo Diaz, executive deputy chief counsel for the agency.

In light of the ruling, distributors could sell, for instance, a pre-packaged case of a dozen 12-ounce bottles totaling 144 ounces.

“Our interpretation of the law the way that it was already

### Daily Photo Galleries





"We were walking in, and I said, 'We can buy 12 packs now, how exciting,'" Savoie said.

Savoie is originally from Illinois, and DiRoma is from New York, both states with less restrictive beer laws than Pennsylvania's.

"I don't need a case of beer," said DiRoma. "I really don't want or drink that much."

But Pistella, who's vice president of the Pennsylvania Malt Beverage Distributors Association, said he doesn't envision 12 packs overtaking traditional case sales anytime soon.

"I think the 12 pack is more for the casual beer drinker. Pennsylvania is more of a case state," he said.

While the ruling is good news for breweries and distributors, it could be bad news for bars and restaurants with liquor licenses, said Ned Sokoloff, founder of the Ross-based Specialty Group, a restaurant services group. "The small mom-and-pops, the independents, are going to get hurt, guaranteed," he said.

Traditionally, restaurants and bars have been allowed to sell six packs and 12 packs, while distributors sold larger quantities.

Now that balance has been thrown off, and it could hurt the bottom line for six-pack shops, said Melissa Bova, director of government affairs for the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association.

"It really does disrupt the balance between the two licenses," she said. "We've always wanted a comprehensive reform bill across the industry, so we're not picking winners or losers."

Bova said she has not yet heard much from restaurants, possibly because they do not yet know about the ruling.

*Jacob Tierney is a Trib Total Media staff writer. He can be reached at 724-836-6646 or [jtierney@tribweb.com](mailto:jtierney@tribweb.com).*

 ▶ Subscribe today! Click here for our subscription offers.

[Show commenting policy](#)

### Most-Read Pennsylvania

1. [Pennsylvania shoppers have more choices for buying beer](#)
2. [Legal opinion clears way for Pa. distributors to sell beer 12 packs](#)
3. [1 killed in Lawrence County tractor-trailer crash](#)
4. [Advocates: Legalizing video poker machines in Pa. could be gold mine](#)
5. [Wolf to outline charter school plan in budget address](#)
6. [Weather closes Penn State for first time in 8 years](#)



### eTrib

[Close]

The eTRIB is an electronic version of your favorite daily Trib Total Media newspaper edition.

You can read the Trib—or any of our other daily newspapers—anywhere, anytime! Read the eTRIB on your tablet, smartphone, iPad or iPhone.

Available eTRIB editions include the Pittsburgh Trib, Greensburg Trib, Valley News Dispatch, Valley Independent, Daily News, Daily Courier and Leader Times.

[Click Here to Read or Subscribe Now!](#)

[See how it works](#)



### Print Source

[Close]

Welcome to PrintSource, a division of Trib Total Media.

We have established a veteran team that provides daily and weekly newspaper companies with a comprehensive set of services that include design, print, packaging and delivery of their products, all from one source and location.

Gone are the days when each facet of newspaper printing and delivery had to be outsourced to different companies and venues. Now, PrintSource provides a viable solution with just one phone call.

[Click Here for More Information](#)



### Digital Sales

[Close]

We offer a wide variety of traditional and new digital advertising options customized to fit your needs!

Whether you're just starting out, or you've been a keystone in the community for years, our knowledgeable staff can provide you with a customized package including online banners/advertisements, Social Media Marketing (Facebook / Twitter), Website development, Search Engine Optimization, Email Marketing solutions and much more!

Contact your local sales rep today for details, personalized proposal and a meeting to discuss how we can meet your needs.

[Click Here to get started!](#)



#### NEWSPAPERS

Obituaries  
TribLIVE Mobile News  
TribLIVE Mobile Sports  
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review  
eTRIB Digital Replica  
Tribune-Review  
Blairsville Dispatch  
Daily Courier  
Valley Independent  
Valley News Dispatch  
Leader Times  
The Daily News  
Community Newspapers

#### MARKETPLACE

Autos  
Classifieds  
Find Pittsburgh Jobs  
Homes  
Pittsburgh Pennysaver  
Store Circulars  
Photo Store

#### FEATURES

Search  
Today's Stories  
RSS Feeds  
Site Map  
Contests  
Events Calendar  
Movie Showtimes  
Bloggers  
Video

#### YOUR TOWN

YourCranberry.com  
YourFoxChapel.com  
YourMonroeville.com  
YourNorthHills.com  
YourNorwin.com  
YourPennHills.com  
YourSewickley.com  
YourSouthHills.com  
YourTwinBoros.com

#### HELP & SERVICES

Contact Us  
Feedback  
Subscriber Services  
Subscribe to our publications  
Commercial Printing  
Place a classified ad  
Print advertising  
Pittsburgh Newspaper Group



Images and text copyright © 2015 — Trib Total Media, Inc.  
Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent.

[Advertising Information](#) | [Terms of Service](#)