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From the Pittsburgh Business Times:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2016/08/26/specialty-group-applying-for-licensing-to-allow.html>

Specialty Group applying for licensing to allow client to deliver bottles of wine

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Another new consumer option may be coming out of Act 39, the liquor code modernization bill that was passed in June: the chance to buy wine and have it delivered to your home.

Ned Sokoloff, a principal of Ross-based **Specialty Group**, said his firm is working the Dormont restaurant Giovanni Pizza and Pasta to apply for two forms of licensing they expect will allow them to deliver bottles of wine along with menu of food options available at the restaurant.

“It’s a pizza shop but he has a lot of volume and believes he can sell a lot of wine,” said Sokoloff.

Sokoloff believes the two applications Specialty is making to the **Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board** – the first for a Transporter-for-hire license; the second for a wine expanded permit – may make Giovanni the first restaurant operator in the state to sell wine by the bottle to be delivered to customers at their homes.

“We expect this one to be the first one in the state and approved and be approved quickly,” he said, adding his search for others have come up empty.

The new possibility of liquor licensees in Pennsylvania selling and delivering bottles of wine comes after Act 39 first went into effect on Aug. 8. As perhaps the most noticed change in the wide reaching law, Pennsylvania allowed restaurant

liquor licensees for the first time to sell up to four bottles of wine to customer to go, a measure licensees need to apply for a wine to go permit.

The new law comes after the PLCB allowed licensees to sell and deliver two six packs of beer for the first time, leading Specialty to pursue the matter with wine now.

Sokoloff acknowledged licensee interested in delivering wine by the bottle may be limited to certain kind of operator with a specific customer base.

State law requires transporter-to-go licensees to only facilitate the transaction process in the place of business, or by the phone.

Elizabeth Brassell, a spokeswoman for the PLCB, wasn't able to immediately confirm if other licensees were also pursuing the two-step permitting to be able to deliver wine, noting the first 155 applicants for wine expanded permits were largely by major retail chains such as Giant Eagle.

She said the LCB's office of chief counsel was considering the issue before issuing a formal opinion.

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