

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2751 (Alvarez)

As Amended April 16, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill would further authorize, but also limit, the personal or household use permitted under an existing exception in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act by restricting any adult entering the United States as a pedestrian or in a vehicle that is not a common carrier to no more than 6 liters of alcoholic beverages every 31 days.

Major Provisions

- 1) Clarifies current law by stating that any adult entering the United States as a pedestrian or by a vehicle that is not a common carrier shall be restricted to no more than six liters of alcoholic beverages every 31 days.
- 2) Makes technical and clarifying changes.

COMMENTS*Background.*

According to the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), an adult U.S. resident returning from a foreign country may bring one liter of alcoholic beverages duty-free as part of their personal exemption, provided that: (1) the individual is at least 21 years old; (2) the alcohol is intended strictly for personal use and not for resale; and (3) the importation does not violate the laws of the state of arrival. While federal regulations allow one liter to be brought in duty-free, travelers may bring back additional quantities of alcohol if permitted by the destination state. However, any amount exceeding the duty-free exemption may be subject to applicable Customs duties and Internal Revenue Tax (IRT).

Under current California law, adults (21 years of age or older) who bring alcoholic beverages into California for commercial or business purposes must be licensed by the ABC. Adults who bring alcoholic beverages into California for personal or household use are not required to obtain an alcoholic beverage license; however, certain restrictions apply. The alcoholic beverages must accompany the traveler upon entry and *may not* be shipped separately to California at a later date.

Current law also limits the quantity of alcohol brought into California from Mexico for personal or household use as follows: 1) A pedestrian crossing the international border on foot may bring in only the amount of alcoholic beverages which are exempt from payment of duty in accordance with the existing provision of federal law (currently, this is one-liter every 31 days). This limit applies to all persons regardless of state or country of residence; 2) A California resident crossing the international border in a vehicle that is not a common carrier may bring in only the amount of alcoholic beverages which are exempt from payment of duty in accordance with the existing provisions of federal law (currently, this is one-liter every 31 days); 3) Non-California residents crossing the international border in a vehicle that is not a common carrier can bring with them a reasonable quantity of alcoholic beverages (up to five cases or 60 liters) provided the beverages are for personal or household use; and 4) A California resident or any other person

crossing the international border via common carrier may bring in a reasonable quantity of alcoholic beverages (up to five cases or 60 liters) provided the beverages are for personal or household use.

These alcoholic beverage thresholds for personal or household use are set and enforced under an agreement between ABC and the CBP. Other requirements and exemptions occur for new California residents, military personnel (relocating and non-relocating) and out-of-state residents traveling through California, and foreign diplomats.

AB 2751 does not alter licensing requirements, distribution rules, or commercial import restrictions. It simply clarifies personal use allowances that already exist in statute. The bill maintains all safeguards that prevent diversion into the retail market and ensures that California's alcohol regulatory framework remains strong, transparent, and enforceable.

According to the Author

According to the author's office, "this bill modernizes California's alcohol import laws to reflect the realities of our border communities. The bill aligns California's personal use import limits from Mexico with those of other states like Texas, allowing residents to bring back up to 6 liters of alcohol for personal consumption. These changes support cross border commerce, promote tourism, and foster the binational relationship with Mexico while maintaining public safety through clear, enforceable standards."

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations analysis, "Minor and absorbable costs to ABC to update informational materials and provide related enforcement. This committee sees a wide array of bills that propose to modify the scope of alcohol laws. Generally, the majority of proposals do not generate significant new workload for ABC, but taken together, these proposals could lead to significant new costs and future budget requests. In this case, however, the proposed expansion of consumer privileges is relatively minor in scope."

VOTES

ASM GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION: 22-0-0

YES: Blanca Rubio, Davies, Alvarez, Berman, Bryan, Carrillo, Dixon, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Pacheco, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Soria, Ta, Valencia, Wallis

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula

UPDATED

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