

Belly up to the bar, boys, and have a brandy with that stogie

◆ **Liquor legal in cigar stores:** Senate passes bill with strict limitations.

By TOM FAHEY
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — The New Hampshire Senate gave cigar bars in the state permission to serve liquor to their guests, but imposed strict rules on their operations.

The bars, which allow customers to smoke cigars indoors, can only offer drinks if 60 percent of their business comes from the sale of cigars and cigar-related products like cases, humidors, lighters and ashtrays. Internet and mail sales are excluded from the formula.

The strict amendment to House Bill 382 passed on a 21-3 vote. It requires any cigar bar serving liquor to ban smoking of cigarettes, ban minors, and have a humidor on premises. It is not allowed to serve any food.

Each potential worker would

have to be warned in advance that smoking takes place in the business, and that working there has "serious and permanent negative health effects" like cancer and heart disease.

None of the limitations were in the House version of the bill, so the House will have to agree with the changes before the bill can become law.

The Senate Commerce, Labor and Consumer Protection Committee split 3-3 on whether the bill should pass. Several senators said allowing liquor in cigar bars would give them unfair advantage over other bars.

"I don't think any of my friends in the hospitality industry will think this is very fair," said Commerce chairman Sen. Deborah Reynolds, D-Plymouth, adding that the bill will chip away at the state's recent ban on smoking in bars and restaurants.

Sen. Jacalyn Gilley, D-Barrington, disagreed. "Exceptions are carved out in many states that ban smoking. This is not a slippery slope at all," she said.



This is National Nursing Home Week and we recognize our Nursing Home Residents whom were Community Stars that now choose to live in our Five Star Nursing Center.

Meet Mr. Ernie Tibbetts, a dedicated community servant who worked for the Manchester Police Department for 22 years as a photographer.

He has been a resident at Maple Leaf Health Care for seven years.



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World War II re-enactors gather around a vintage truck during a previous rally in Weare.

COURTESY PHOTO

Re-enactors in tribute to vets with Motor March

◆ **On Saturday:** The route will take them from Bedford to the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen and the Veterans Home in Tilton.

By JIM FENNELL
New Hampshire Union Leader

The first few times Bill Wolf brought his vintage World War II vehicles to events, he wondered

how veterans who fought in the war would react. He feared they would be offended by this younger man "playing war."

Those fears were never realized. "Most of these guys are so flattered we are paying tribute to

what they've done," the Tilton resident said. "It's very rewarding."

Wolf and other collectors will join the 20th Infantry "Yankee Division," a historical re-enactment group that includes members from New Hampshire, to pay a fitting tribute to those veterans Saturday when they stage a Motor March as part of Armed Forces Day.

Motor marches were military exercises held during WWI in the United States and England to get troops prepared for the grueling treks they conducted throughout Europe after the allies made their initial landing during D-Day.

Such marches took place in New Hampshire when troops from Fort Devens would head up to the White Mountains for training.

Saturday's scaled-down march from Bedford to Laconia will cover part of the original Motor March route along Route 3.

Along the way, the convoy of 12 vehicles and about 30 re-enactors dressed in authentic and replica WWI uniforms will make stops at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen for a wreath-laying ceremony at noon and the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton to visit with the residents.

"We're kind of like military history geeks," Wolf said. "But most of the veterans love to see us."

The march is scheduled to start Saturday morning at 9:30 from Macy's in Bedford, reaching the Veteran's Cemetery around noon and the Veteran's Home around 2 p.m.



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Survey: Gambling wins support

CONCORD — A group supporting the expansion of legal gambling said it found record support in a survey late last month.

Fix-it-Now, a coalition that backs slot machines at racetracks in the state, said it found 69 percent support adding the machines. When given a list of other options, such as estate taxes, higher business taxes and others, gambling won support from 48 percent of the survey group.

Pollster Steve Lombardo of the Lombardo Consulting Group said support for gambling was unexpectedly high, and has risen steadily since 1999.

He said the poll sampled 400 registered voters in all counties, and found nearly 70 percent support among Republicans, Democrats and independents. Those saying they strongly support gambling was at 50 percent, he said.

"You rarely see anything in polling like this," Lombardo said.

The findings drew skepticism from Jim Rubens, head of the Granite State Coalition Against Expanded Gambling. He said respondents to the survey were given a narrow range of choices meant to draw support for a seemingly pain-free solution to state budget problems.

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