

House of Representatives
Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 21 August 2012

Alcohol Reform Bill

Proposed amendment

Hon Lianne Dalziel, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 382:

In *clause 382(1)*, after *paragraph (bb)* (after line 27 on page 235), insert:

- (bc) prescribing the price below which alcohol may not be sold by the holder of an off-licence:
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Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Alcohol Reform Bill by making provision for regulations to introduce a minimum price at which alcohol could be sold from off-licences.

As reported back from the Justice and Electoral Committee the Bill now includes provision for regulations to be made to ensure that information essential to work on the possibility of a minimum pricing regime is available by requiring the alcohol industry to provide the Government, free of charge, with specified information on the price and quantity of alcohol sold. Research shows that there is a relationship between the price of alcohol and its consumption and that affordability of alcohol has improved; in some cases prices have not increased over a period of 20 years despite inflation. Minimum pricing per standard drink would have a very limited impact on those who drink alcohol safely and responsibly and is a mechanism to stop heavy discounting, possibly to below cost. Minimum pricing implemented at the point of sale by the retailer would ensure an increase to the retail price of extremely cheap alcohol, whereas the cost of increasing excise tax can be absorbed by either the retailer or producer without increasing the retail price.
