

Leno's bill to extend bar hours till 4 a.m. dies in committee

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A bill introduced by state Sen. Mark Leno that would have allowed bars, nightclubs and restaurants statewide to seek permission to remain open an extra two hours, until 4 a.m., died Tuesday in the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization.

The vote was 6-4 against the proposed legislation, SB 645.

All three Republicans on the committee — Sen. Jim Nielsen, Sen. Tom Berryhill and Sen. Anthony Cannella — voted no. They were joined by three Democrats — Sen. Ted Lieu, Sen. Ron Calderon and Sen. Lou Correa.

Voting for the bill were four Democrats — Sen. Alex Padilla, Sen. Roderick Wright, Sen. Kevin de Leon and Sen. Ed Hernandez. Democratic Sen. Cathleen Galgiani abstained.

The bill faced strong opposition from San Rafael-based Alcohol Justice, which was concerned about encouraging alcohol consumption and the threat to public safety from possibly intoxicated drivers.

Leno, D-San Francisco, contended the move would allow local control, was in line with hours in other major cities and could benefit business and tourism.

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