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By [Jennifer Harper](#) - The Washington Times - Sunday, August 14, 2016

SALON OR SALOON?

California Gov. **Jerry Brown** is hearing plenty about AB 1322, a bill passed by the state assembly that would allow beauty salons and barber shops to serve certain libations during the course of a haircut. Existing law makes it unlawful for anybody other than a licensee of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell, manufacture or import alcoholic beverages — except for those who operate limousines or hot air balloons. They can serve alcohol without a license or permit provided there is no extra charge or fee for the beverages. The new bill would allow the same thing in the Golden State's 42,000 beauty salons and barber shops.

Activists are urging Mr. Brown, a Democrat, to veto the legislation.

“This bill is nothing more than another ploy to enrich the special interest of a few and the alcohol lobby to the detriment of the health and safety of our community members,” says **Richard Zaldivar**, co-chair of the California Alcohol Policy Alliance, which staged two demonstrations in Los Angeles this weekend to prove its point; the rallies' themes include “Alcohol belongs in saloons, not salons” and “Cut my hair, not my liver.”

Mr. Zaldivar notes that California has 10,000 alcohol-related deaths a year and that the number of venues allowed to serve alcohol in the state will increase by 41 percent if the bill is made law. “Our community members suffer enough with thousands of alcohol-related deaths and other physical harm,” he says.