

1859-60.

VICTORIA.

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# LIQUORS SALE LAWS.

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## PETITION.

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*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6th March, 1860.*

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TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
COLONY OF VICTORIA.

The Humble Petition of the undersigned Grocers and Licensed Wine and Spirit  
Merchants of Melbourne, its environs and suburbs :

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That the present licensing system is not in keeping with the requirements of the colony, inasmuch as it tends to give facilities for sly-grog selling, an undue preference to licensed victuallers, and entails upon a large portion of the community the necessity of making their purchases of wines, spirits, or beer, at the bar of a public-house, where dissolute drunken persons are frequently assembled.

Your Petitioners would, therefore, humbly submit to this Honorable House, that however necessary the present law may have been at the date of its introduction, that, from the altered state of society caused by the emigration of persons from every nation consequent on the discovery of gold, it is wholly inoperative and diametrically opposed to the laws thereon in other parts of British dominions.

Your Petitioners would humbly submit, that the present law regulating the sale of fermented liquors is not based upon such equitable principles as the laws thereon at present in existence in Great Britain, from the fact that wine and spirit merchants—subject to the same registration fee as the licensed victualler, namely, twenty-five pounds per annum—are deprived of the privilege of selling in less quantities than two gallons, while the licensed victuallers are permitted to follow the wholesale trade combined with the retail.

Your Petitioners would also further humbly submit, that while the proposed amendment would tend to increase the revenue, a large portion of the community would be benefited by being enabled to purchase their wines and spirits, or beer, in quantities suited to their convenience.

Your Petitioners would also beg to say, that by conceding this privilege to the grocers and licensed wine and spirit merchants it would afford increased facilities for the introduction of colonial wines, and tend to create a taste for those less intoxicating beverages.

In conclusion your Petitioners humbly pray that this Honorable House will be pleased to amend the present Act so as to permit wine and spirit merchants, paying the registration fee, to sell wines, beers, or spirits, in quantities of not less than the ordinary bottle, and not to be consumed on the premises.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

*(Here follow 164 signatures.)*

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By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.