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Poland’s lower house approved a bill banning most overnight takeout alcohol sales.

If enacted, the measure would also double permit fees for spirits retailers and take effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

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Poland’s lower house of parliament has approved a bill that would double the license fee for selling spirits and other drinks above 18% alcohol, part of a broader package that would also impose a nationwide overnight ban on most takeout alcohol sales if it

becomes law.

The Sejm passed the measure on Thursday, Oct. 8, by 400 votes to 29, with 4 abstentions. The bill now goes to the Senate, and then to President Karol Nawrocki, who would decide whether to sign or veto it. The proposed rules are not yet in force. If the bill clears the remaining steps, the changes are expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

Under the bill, the annual fee for a permit to sell alcohol above 18% would rise from 2,100 zlotys to 4,200 zlotys, an increase of 2,100 zlotys, or 100%. That would affect retailers authorized to sell products such as vodka, whisky, rum and other distilled spirits. The fee for drinks up to 18% alcohol would also double, rising from 525 zlotys to 1,050 zlotys.

The measure pairs that higher cost of market access with tighter selling hours. It would ban the sale of alcohol for consumption outside the place of sale between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. across the country. The restriction would apply to stores and gas stations selling alcohol to go, while restaurants, bars, pubs, hotels and airports would be excluded.

For retailers, the proposal would mean a narrower overnight sales window at the same time that the regulatory cost of holding a license rises. The overnight restriction would apply nationally rather than through the current patchwork of local rules. Some Polish cities, including Warsaw, Krakow, Gdansk and Wroclaw, already have local nighttime limits on alcohol sales.

During the parliamentary debate, government officials said the goal was to standardize rules across Poland while keeping local governments involved. The bill would still allow municipal councils to introduce additional limits during certain evening or morning hours.

The legislation goes beyond licensing fees and hours of sale. It would also introduce a general ban on the advertising and promotion of all alcoholic beverages, including beer. Violations would carry fines ranging from 30,000 zlotys to 1 million zlotys or a penalty restricting liberty, according to the text approved by the Sejm.

That would mark a major change for Poland’s alcohol market, where beer advertising has been allowed under certain conditions. Officials backing the bill said the new rules are meant to end broad promotional campaigns and discount offers that they say encourage impulsive drinking.

The bill would also tighten age verification rules at the point of sale. If a seller has doubts about whether a customer is of legal age, checking the buyer’s age would become mandatory rather than optional. New warning labels would also be required on alcohol packaging, including notices about the risks of drinking during pregnancy, the prohibition on driving under the influence, and the harms of alcohol use by people under 18.

Another provision would regulate small-format alcohol packaging. Containers holding no more than 300 milliliters of alcohol would have to be made only of glass or metal. Polish lawmakers have also included a measure that would allow wine to be sold online under limited conditions, with pickup at a licensed point of sale and identity and age verification at collection.

The bill emerged from two separate parliamentary proposals backed by parties in the governing coalition. Its passage gives supporters an important win on public health policy, but the proposal still faces review in the upper chamber and then a presidential decision.

The debate comes as Poland weighs stronger national action on alcohol availability. Supporters of the bill have argued that communities that restricted late-night sales saw fewer crimes and fewer police interventions, although the economic effects on small retailers and late-hour outlets are likely to draw close attention as the bill moves forward.

Public opinion appears divided but broadly supportive of at least one major part of the package. A June IBRiS poll for the newspaper Rzeczpospolita found that 55% of respondents backed a nationwide overnight alcohol sales ban, while opposition to the idea varied by political camp.

For businesses selling stronger alcohol, the most immediate financial impact in the bill is the jump in permit costs. For consumers, the most visible change would be the nationwide cutoff on takeaway purchases late at night. For now, both changes remain proposals until the Senate acts and the president makes a final decision.