

STATE OF NEW YORK
LIQUOR AUTHORITY

(Series 1978)
Bulletin #519
March 13, 1978

TO: MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALERS OF WINE
SUBJECT: SALES OF KOSHER WINE FOR PASSOVER

The Authority has received an increasing number of complaints that some synagogues have been selling Kosher wine at retail for the Passover holidays. Although those involved may view this as a routine fund-raising activity, it is, in fact, illegal for synagogues or any other religious institution to sell wine at retail for off-premises consumption.

This practice could not exist without the active participation of some suppliers or distributors of wine in this State. While the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law authorizes wineries and wine wholesalers to sell wine to religious institutions for sacramental purposes only, the sale of wine to such institutions for resale is not permitted.

The New York Board of Rabbis has joined the Authority in urging an end to this practice, which exists in violation of the laws of this State, and which unfairly deprives package store owners and competing suppliers, distributors and salesmen of business to which they are legitimately entitled.

Where wineries or wholesale licensees sell wine to synagogues or other religious institutions in quantities which clearly exceed the amounts which could reasonably be required for use by such institutions for sacramental purposes, the Authority will presume that such wine has not been sold for sacramental purposes only.

The New York Board of Rabbis has advised the Authority that it intends to ask its members and their congregations for their cooperation in this matter.

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Hugh Marius
Chairman (Actg.)