

## Social Host Law in Connecticut

Effective October 1, 2012, there is a new Social Host law in Connecticut. “AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN PERSONS FROM ALLOWING MINORS TO POSSESS ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN DWELLING UNITS AND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY” prohibits anyone who owns or controls private property, including a dwelling unit, from recklessly, or with criminal negligence, permitting anyone under age 21 to illegally possess alcohol in the unit or on the property. Existing law prohibits knowingly allowing such possession. The law also requires any such person who knows that a minor possesses alcohol illegally to make reasonable efforts to stop it. The act extends liability for failure to halt possession to a person who acts recklessly or with criminal negligence. The act increases the penalty for a violation to a class A misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum one year imprisonment or up to a \$2000 fine. The text of the law can be found at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/ACT/PA/2012PA-00199-R00HB-05360-PA.htm> (the black print is the original law, the blue print is what has been added, and the red print is what has been removed).