

Virginia: Sale of state ABC stores won't happen this session

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Legislation to sell state-owned liquor stores and devote the proceeds to transportation won't pass this session.

Sen. Mark Obenshain effectively withdrew his measure Tuesday to divest the state of its Alcoholic Beverage Control stores.

The Harrisonburg Republican said he did it so Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell could study the measure that was a pillar of the transportation funding plan he advanced in his successful campaign last year.

Obenshain said the bill would await a special session on transportation, should McDonnell call one, or next year's regular session.

McDonnell claimed that selling the state-owned liquor retailers would generate about \$500 million for transportation, an estimate many experts question.