

## **Pennsylvania: Walmart pulling out of wine vending machine project**

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Wal-Mart is pulling out of a deal to install about two dozen state-controlled wine-vending machines in its Pennsylvania.

An Aug. 15 letter from Wal-Mart's director of Pennsylvania operations Kurt Herkert to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board says it is terminating the agreement, but does not say why.

Herkert confirmed Wednesday that Wal-Mart is ending the agreement. He referred further comment to a company spokesman, who could not immediately be reached.

The move comes amid a dispute between the liquor board and the kiosk contractor - Simple Brands - and calls by some Republican state lawmakers to end state control over wine and liquor sales.

The kiosk program began last summer, but the 10-foot-high machines have been plagued with mechanical problems. That prompted Wegmans to end its experiment with kiosks in 10 of its stores.