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Puerto Rico governor seeks to restrict alcohol sales as part of campaign to reduce crime

By Associated Press

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Gov. Luis Fortuno said Tuesday he will submit a proposal for the legislature to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages after certain hours as a way to cut down on crime in Puerto Rico.

If approved, such sales would be illegal after midnight from Monday through Thursday and after 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Fortuno did not address sales on Sundays, although a large number of establishments sell alcohol well past Saturday midnight.

The proposed ban would not apply to hotels and inns because Fortuno said he understands that tourists hope to have fun at different hours. He did not say when he plans to submit the proposal to legislators.

Police Superintendent Jose Figueroa Sancha said statistics show most violence occurs around places that sell alcohol in the early morning hours.

There have been 548 reported killings this year, 32 more than during the same period last year.

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