

Store named in drunken driving suit

The Southland Corporation, owner of the 7-Eleven stores, was accused Tuesday of contributing to a car wreck by selling alcoholic beverages to the driver.

The alcoholic beverage industry fears Texas, without legislative action, is developing a dram shop law. Such a law holds sellers of alcoholic beverages partly responsible for the actions of drunks or minors they serve.

The allegation against Southland is in a civil suit filed against it, the driver, Rex A. Woods, and Rex Woods' father, Darrel Woods.

Sue Hammerle,

mother of Mark Hammerle, the man hurt in the wreck, said in the suit her son was riding with Rex Woods when Woods lost control of his car and hit a light pole Dec. 23.

The suit alleges Rex Woods was intoxicated at the time of the wreck and was a reckless and incompetent driver who had operated a vehicle while intoxicated. The suit says Darrel Woods knew or should have known those things about his son.

The suit alleges Rex Woods, while intoxicated, purchased alcoholic beverages at a 7-Eleven before the wreck and his consumption of those beverages caused the wreck.

Southland representative Debbie Rog would not comment.