

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**ESB 6292**

**AS PASSED SENATE, FEBRUARY 13, 1992**

**Brief Description:** Expanding the sales opportunities of licensed brewers and domestic wineries.

**SPONSORS:** Senators Bauer, Newhouse, Thorsness, Moore and Vognild

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR**

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Matson, Chairman; Bluechel, McDonald, McMullen, Moore, Murray, and Skratek.

**Staff:** Patrick Woods (786-7430)

**Hearing Dates:** January 27, 1992; February 5, 1992

**BACKGROUND:**

Under current law, breweries are licensed to sell beer of their own production for on or off premise consumption. For the purpose of conducting such activity, an establishment holding a brewer's license is considered to have wholesaling and retailing privileges for products of their own production. However, a brewery desiring to sell wine or beer produced by another brewery for consumption on premises is required to hold a class H restaurant license and must provide full meal services.

In like manner, domestic wineries are licensed to sell wine of their own production for on or off-premise consumption. For the purposes of conducting such activity, an establishment holding a domestic winery license is also considered to have wholesaling and retailing privileges for products of their own production. However, a winery desiring to sell beer or wines produced by another winery for consumption on premises is required to obtain a class H restaurant license and must provide full meal service.

The range of license fees for applicable retail liquor licenses are as follows: A - beer license, \$205-\$355; B - beer tavern, \$205-\$355; C - wine, \$150-\$300; H - beer/wine/spirits, \$1,200-\$2,000.

**SUMMARY:**

Licensed brewers are authorized to obtain a beer or wine retailers' license for on-premise consumption at the brewery or domestic winery. The alcoholic beverages that are not produced by the brewery are required to be purchased from a licensed beer or wine wholesaler.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** requested January 23, 1992

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

Granting Washington breweries, in particular microbreweries, the ability to sell beer or wine produced by other manufacturers will provide greater selection to consumers and increase on-premise sales.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** T.K. Bentler, Washington Association of Small Brewers (pro); Pamela Hinckley, Redhook (pro); Carter Mitchell, Liquor Control Board (pro); Dick Ducharme, Washington Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association (pro); Victoria Chiechi, Washington Wine Institute (pro)

**HOUSE AMENDMENT(S):**

The amended bill also allows wineries to obtain retailers' licenses to sell beer or wine on-premises.