

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1151

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As Reported By House Committee On:  
Commerce & Labor

**Title:** An act relating to registration for kegs or other similar containers for malt liquor.

**Brief Description:** Changing the definition of keg for purpose of the state liquor code.

**Sponsors:** Representatives G. Cole, Lisk, Heavey and Springer.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Commerce & Labor, January 26, 1993, DP.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Heavey, Chair; G. Cole, Vice Chair; Lisk, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Franklin; Horn; King; Springer; and Veloria.

**Staff:** Jim Kelley (786-7166).

**Background:** A class E liquor license entitles the licensee to sell beer at retail for off-premises consumption in bottles and original packages, but not to sell malt liquor in kegs or other containers capable of holding four gallons or more of liquid.

Only licensees holding a class A or B license in combination with a class E license may sell malt liquor in kegs or other containers capable of holding four gallons or more of liquid. If such a sale is made to a person other than a licensee, then the following procedure must be followed:

- 1) The purchaser of the malt liquor must sign a declaration and receipt for the keg;
- 2) The purchaser must provide suitable identification;
- 3) The purchaser must sign a sworn statement that he or she is of legal age, that he or she will not allow any minor to consume the beverage, and that he or she will

not remove or obliterate the identification that is affixed to the container;

- 4) The purchaser must state the particular address where the malt liquor will be consumed; and
- 5) The purchaser must maintain a copy of the declaration and receipt adjacent to the keg when it is under his or her control.

In other states, some brewers sell beer at retail in containers that are capable of holding more than four gallons of liquid. Generally, these containers appear more similar to wine boxes than traditional beer kegs. The Washington liquor code does not allow for licensees holding only a class E beer retailer license to sell these products.

**Summary of Bill:** Class E beer retailers are allowed to sell malt liquor in kegs or other containers that are capable of holding less than five and one-half gallons. However, any sale of malt liquor in containers capable of holding more than four gallons of liquid is subject to the keg registration statute.

The Liquor Control Board may charge class E licensees for the costs of providing the forms used in the keg registration program.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Beer in a box is geared for upscale parties, it is not the type of product that will appeal to minors. It is priced approximately 20 percent higher than the same amount of beer in cases. This bill would allow grocery stores to sell beer in a box, but they would have to comply with keg registration laws.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Stu Halsan, Coors Brewing Company (in favor).