

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6539

As Reported By House Committee On:

Commerce & Labor

Title: An act relating to technical changes regarding designations for liquor licenses.

Brief Description: Making technical changes regarding designations for liquor licenses.

Sponsors: Senators Schow and Heavey; by request of Liquor Control Board.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Labor: 2/19/98, 2/26/98 [DP].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives McMorris, Chairman; Honeyford, Vice Chairman; Conway, Ranking Minority Member; Wood, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Boldt; Clements; Hatfield and Lisk.

Staff: Pam Madson (786-7166).

Background: In 1997, legislation was enacted that changes the designation of liquor licenses from letters of the alphabet to a business description for each license. The law becomes effective July 1, 1998.

A class H liquor license is changed to a full service restaurant license. Under this license, a restaurant may serve beer, wine and spirits by the drink for consumption on the restaurant's premises.

Class A and C licenses allow beer and wine to be served by the glass on the restaurant premises. This combination of licenses has become a limited service restaurant license. Under this license, a restaurant may serve beer and wine by the drink for consumption on the restaurant's premises.

The term wholesaler is changed to distributor.

Summary of Bill: The license designation "full service" is changed to "spirits, beer and wine." The license designation "limited service" is changed to "beer and/or wine."

Consistent with changes in license designations that will become effective July 1, 1998, additional references to a wholesaler are changed to distributor and brewer is changed to a brewery.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

Testimony For: Last year the board's licensing scheme was changed from an alphabet soup system to something more user friendly, both to the license applicant and the board's staff. This bill is a housekeeping bill to further reduce confusion.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (In favor) Gary Gilbert, Washington State Liquor Control Board.