

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1855

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions, March 27, 2001

Title: An act relating to liquor by the drink at special events at restricted clubs.

Brief Description: Allowing private clubs to serve liquor at special events.

Sponsors: By Representatives Hunt, Conway, Clements, Ericksen, Pennington and Kenney.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions: 3/27/01 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Prentice, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Franklin, Hochstatter, Honeyford, Rasmussen, Regala, West and Winsley.

Staff: Catherine Mele (786-7470)

Background: A full-service private club license allows the licensee to serve liquor by the drink on the club's premises to club members, guests, and visitors. A club must be a nonprofit organization with a social, educational, benevolent, or athletic purpose. In 1998, the Legislature passed a law giving these clubs a special endorsement on their license that allowed the club to have up to 40 nonclub events using club liquor. Events must be sponsored by club members and may not be open to the general public.

There are concerns that private clubs that do not qualify as nonprofit should have the same endorsement to their liquor license as nonprofit clubs.

Summary of Bill: A private club that restricts membership through selected criteria may obtain an endorsement for up to 40 nonclub member sponsored events using club liquor. Visitors and guests may attend the events only by invitation of the sponsoring members. The general public may not attend these events. The endorsement costs \$900 annually. At the request of the board the club must provide (at least 72 hours before the event) notice of the date, time, and location of the event; the event sponsor; and a brief description of the purpose of the event.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: There are five clubs that meet the definition of club under this bill. They are private clubs such as Columbia Tower Club, Indian Summers Golf Club, and the Bellevue Athletic Club. In 1998, the Legislature passed a bill allowing some clubs to have up to 40 nonclub events using club liquor. The 1998 bill did not include these private clubs. This bill gives these five clubs the same endorsement to their liquor license that the other clubs have currently.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Tony Meinhardt, WA Federation of Private Clubs; Stu Halsan, WA State Federation of Clubs.