
Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 2831

Brief Description: Increasing the number of days certain fairs can use the special occasion liquor license.

Sponsors: Representatives Chandler, Grant, Holmquist, Newhouse, Delvin and Hunt.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows county and area agricultural fairs to count a multi-day fair as one event for the purpose of the 12-day per year limit on special occasion licensees serving alcohol.

Hearing Date: 2/2/04

Staff: Susan Kavanaugh (786-7106).

Background:

A not-for-profit society or organization may obtain a special occasion liquor license to sell spirits, beer, and wine by the individual serving, for on-premises consumption at a specified date and time. With prior permission from the Liquor Control Board (Board), an organization with a special occasion license may also sell beer and wine in original unopened containers for off-premises consumption.

The fee for a special occasion license is \$60 per day. Sales under this license are limited to 12 calendar days per year.

The Department of Agriculture rules require that in order to receive an allocation from the State Fair Fund, an agricultural area fair or agricultural county fair must promote Washington agriculture. While most Washington county or area fairs do not serve alcohol, the Central Washington State Fair in Yakima includes wine tasting, and several other fairs serve beer during their rodeos.

Summary of Bill:

Special occasion licensees that are agricultural area fairs or agricultural county and district fairs may, once a calendar year, count fairs that last multiple days as one event. Fairs may do this only if alcohol sales are at set dates, times, and locations, and the Board is notified in advance of these dates, times, and locations. Fairs still pay \$60 per actual day.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 28, 2004.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.