
Transportation Committee

HB 1819

Brief Description: Concerning furnishing liquor to minors.

Sponsors: Representatives Lovick, Strow, Ericks, Armstrong, Springer, Newhouse, Kenney, O'Brien, Goodman, Morrell and Moeller.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Licensing to suspend the driver's license of any person who has a judgment entered against him or her for supplying liquor to a minor.

Hearing Date: 3/15/07

Staff: David Munnecke (786-7315).

Background:

Under RCW 66.44.270(1), it is against the law for anyone to supply liquor, by sale, gift, or otherwise, to a person under the age of 21. It is also against the law for any person to let a person under the age of 21 consume liquor on any premises under that person's control. Premises is defined under the law to include real property, houses, buildings, other structures, motor vehicles, and watercraft.

There are exceptions to RCW 66.44.270(1) for: (1) parents or guardians where the liquor is consumed in the presence of the parent or guardian; (2) liquor given for medicinal purposes; (3) liquor given in connection with religious services; and (4) employees of grocery or liquor stores over the age of eighteen only in order to handle, sell, or stock beer or wine.

A violation of RCW 66.44.270(1) is a gross misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a \$5,000 fine.

Summary of Bill:

All courts are required to notify the Department of Licensing within 24 hours after entry of a judgment for a violation RCW 66.44.270(1). Upon receipt of the notice of a conviction under

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

RCW 66.44.270(1), the Department of Licensing is required to suspend the convicted person's driver's license for 30 days for the first offense and 180 days for each subsequent offense.

A person who has his or her license suspended for providing liquor to a minor is eligible for receiving a restricted driver's license, and is not required to install an ignition interlock device, which is required in the context of other alcohol-related license suspensions or revocations.

A further exception to the requirements of RCW 66.44.270(1) is also created for a person licensed to sell or dispense liquor who gives liquor to a minor while acting within the scope of his or her license.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on March 15, 2007.

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