

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2179

As of February 22, 2012

Title: An act relating to objections to liquor licenses by local governments.

Brief Description: Concerning objections to liquor licenses by local governments.

Sponsors: Representatives Morris, Lytton and Kenney.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/11/12, 92-0.

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/21/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Staff: Stephanie Christensen (786-7405)

Background: The Liquor Control Board (Board) issues multiple types of liquor licenses, including winery, brewery, grocery store, and restaurant licenses. Prior to issuing any type of new or renewal license, the Board must notify the chief executive officer of the city or town in which the applicant seeking a license is located. The city or town, through the official or employee selected by it, has the right to file a written objection to the issuance of a new or renewal license. When filing a written objection, the city or town may request that the Board hold a discretionary hearing to review the license application.

When an applicant is located in an unincorporated area, the Board must notify the county legislative authority of the application. The county legislative authority, or the official or employee selected by it, may object to the issuance of a new or renewal license and request a hearing.

Summary of Bill: The city or town entity that receives notice of liquor licenses is changed from the chief executive officer to the legislative authority.

Prior to issuing any type of new or renewal license, the Board must notify the legislative authority of the city or town in which the applicant seeking a license is located. The legislative authority of the city or town, or the official or employee selected by it, may file a written objection and request a hearing.

Appropriation: None.

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.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: We are supportive of the amendment, which will ensure that local governments have the opportunity to provide input through a more democratic process without adding complications to the licensing process.

CON: City councils already have the authority to say that they want to weigh in on applications. The new process creates additional confusion, will take more time, and is not feasible for all cities.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Julia Clark, WA Restaurant Assn.

CON: Candice Bock, Assn. of WA Cities.