

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5285

As of January 27, 2011

Title: An act relating to the issuance of liquor licenses for businesses located near schools.

Brief Description: Concerning the issuance of liquor licenses for businesses located near schools.

Sponsors: Senator Ranker.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 1/27/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Staff: Edith Rice (786-7444)

Background: The Liquor Control Board (LCB) cannot issue a liquor license to an applicant for on or off premises consumption of liquor not currently licensed if the premises to be licensed is within 500 feet of the premises of a public elementary or secondary school. The 500 feet measurement is to be along the most direct route using public walks and streets and is measured from the main entrance of the school to the nearest public entrance of the premises to be licensed.

Summary of Bill: LCB cannot issue a liquor license to an applicant for on or off premises consumption of liquor not currently licensed if the premises to be licensed is within 500 feet of the premises of a public elementary or secondary school. The 500 feet measurement is to be along the most direct route using public walks and streets and is measured from the outer property line of the school grounds to the nearest public entrance of the premises to be licensed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

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.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: It should not be easy to find alcohol for purchase close to elementary and secondary schools. Children need an alcohol free zone around schools, and adults need to steer clear of schools when they are drinking. This is a priority for our county council. This is a minor change but provides clarity for LCB and its staff.

OTHER: This bill will put into place the law as it was originally. Groceries are often in the heart of a community, and near schools.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Ranker, prime sponsor; Teddy McCullough, San Juan County Youth Council; Lovel Pratt, Chair, San Juan County Council; Jim Cooper, Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention.

OTHER: Alan Rathbun, LCB; Holly Chisa, Northwest Grocery Association.