

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5710

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As of February 17, 2011

**Title:** An act relating to the sale of beer by grocery store licensees.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the sale of beer by grocery store licensees.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hobbs, Kline and Hewitt.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/17/11.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Staff:** Edith Rice (786-7444)

**Background:** A beer and wine retailer's license permits a grocery store to sell beer, strong beer, and wine at retail in bottles, cans, and original containers for off premises consumption. Licensees can get a written endorsement from the Liquor Control Board to sell malt liquor in kegs or other containers capable of holding less than 5.5 gallons.

**Summary of Bill:** If approved by the board, a grocery store licensee can receive an endorsement to allow for the sale of beer to a purchaser who brings their own container or is provided one by the licensee. The container is filled at the tap at the time of sale.

The board is authorized to adopt rules to implement this law.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 14, 2011.

**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 need to support the small businesses as well as larger businesses and this bill would benefit small grocers, as well as smaller breweries. Our goal is primarily to serve samples at tastings. We really want to sell sealed

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containers, this adds venues for craft breweries. We don't want to be required to get a second license to do this, which is what is required now.

CON: We are not OK with grocery stores running a tap line. We have the same concerns as the board.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Holly Chisa, NW Grocery Assn., TK Bentler, WA Assn. of Neighborhood Stores, Carolyn Logue, WA Food Industry Assn.

CON: Rick Garza, Liquor Control Board, Seth Dawson, WA Assn. for Substance Abuse Prevention.