

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 6442

As Passed House:
March 6, 2014

Title: An act relating to allowing sales of growlers of cider.

Brief Description: Allowing sales of growlers of cider.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Hatfield, Schoesler, Hobbs, Honeyford, Hewitt, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Kline and Rolfes).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Government Accountability & Oversight: 2/24/14 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/14, 86-10.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Permits licensees currently allowed to sell beer in growlers to also sell cider in growlers.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Hurst, Chair; Wylie, Vice Chair; Condotta, Ranking Minority Member; Holy, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Blake, Kirby, Moscoso, Shea and Vick.

Staff: David Rubenstein (786-7153).

Background:

The Liquor Control Board (Board) issues a variety of liquor licenses, including microbrewery, restaurant, and retailer licenses. Subject to various restrictions, some licensees may sell beer in a sanitary container brought to the premises by the purchaser or supplied by the licensee and filled at the tap at the time of sale (growlers). Licensees that may sell growlers of beer include: (1) domestic breweries and microbreweries; (2) beer and wine restaurants and taverns that hold a "combined" license; (3) certain beer and wine

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specialty shops; and (4) hotels. Most such licenses require that beer sold in growlers be for off-premises consumption.

Cider is defined as table wine made of fermented apples or pears containing between 0.5 percent and 7 percent alcohol by volume. Because cider is defined not as beer but as wine, cider cannot be sold in growlers under current law.

Federal law imposes various requirements on labeling of alcoholic beverage containers, including a Surgeon General's warning that women should not drink alcohol during pregnancy.

Summary of Bill:

Any licensee permitted to sell beer in growlers is similarly permitted to sell cider in growlers. The licensee must comply with federal law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This is the cider growler bill everyone loves, as compared to other bills which were more controversial. This bill supports our local cider industry.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Brown, prime sponsor; Julie Tall, Capitol Cider; Colin Schilling, Schilling Cider; Bill Stauffacher, Washington Beer and Wine Distributors Association; and Cindy Zehnder, Total Wine & More.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.