
Commerce & Gaming Committee

HB 1768

Brief Description: Authorizing a licensed domestic brewery or microbrewery to provide promotional items to a nonprofit charitable corporation or association.

Sponsors: Representatives Kirby, Vick, Reykdal and Goodman.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permits breweries and microbreweries to provide branded promotional items to nonprofit organizations.

Hearing Date: 2/9/15

Staff: David Rubenstein (786-7153).

Background:

Washington's "tied-house" laws regulate the relationship between liquor manufacturers, distributors ("industry members"), and retailers. In general, tied-house laws are meant to regulate how liquor is marketed and to prevent the vertical integration of the three tiers of the liquor industry. The general rule is that no industry member may advance and no retailer may receive moneys or money's worth under an agreement, or by means of any other business practice or arrangement.

There are numerous exceptions to the tied-house laws. Among them are exemptions for branded promotional items provided by alcoholic beverage producers to retailers, sampling events provided by wineries and breweries, and advertising of liquor products by professional sports teams holding a retail liquor license.

Summary of Bill:

An express exemption to the tied-house law is added to allow domestic breweries and microbreweries to provide branded promotional items of nominal value to nonprofit

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organizations exempt from federal taxation under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3). The items must be used in a manner consistent with the organization's charitable purpose.

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.