

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5280

As of February 26, 2015

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

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

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles, Braun and Warnick.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Commerce & Labor: 2/18/15 [DPS-WM, w/oRec].
Ways & Means: 2/25/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5280 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Baumgartner, Chair; Hasegawa, Ranking Minority Member; King and Warnick.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Braun, Vice Chair; Conway and Keiser.

Staff: Richard Rodger (786-7461)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Dean Carlson (786-7305)

Background: The Liquor Control Board (LCB) is the lead agency responsible for the licensing of businesses that sell spirits, beer, and wine.

Certain licensees are authorized to sell beer and cider in sanitary containers (growlers) brought to the premises by the purchaser to be filled at the tap at the time of sale. The following businesses, holding the proper licenses or endorsements, are authorized to sell beer and cider in growlers: (1) domestic breweries; (2) microbreweries; (3) beer and wine retailers; (4) beer or wine specialty shops; (5) restaurants; and (6) hotels. Except for hotels, the sales are only permitted for off-premises consumption.

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.

A class 12 alcohol server permit for managers or bartenders requires completion of a course certified by LCB. Curriculum includes subjects such as the physiological effects of alcohol, liability and legal information, driving while intoxicated, effective intervention, methods for checking proper identification, and Washington laws.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): A grocery store licensee that exceeds 50 percent beer and wine sales or maintains an alcohol inventory of not less than \$15,000 may, with LCB approval, receive an endorsement to sell beer or cider in growlers. The growlers may be brought to the grocery store by the purchaser or provided by the licensee or manufacturer and must be filled at the tap at the time of sale by an employee with a class 12 alcohol server permit.

LCB may adopt rules to implement the grocery store licensee provisions. The rules can include the regulation of the sale of beer or cider or the sizes of containers that may be filled.

Appropriation: None.

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 (Commerce & Labor): PRO: The bill allows certain grocery stores to sell beer and cider in growlers. This extends the rights already granted to beer and wine specialty stores to some grocery stores.

Persons Testifying (Commerce & Labor): PRO: Amy Brackenbury, WA Food Industry Assn.; TK Bentler, WA Assn. of Neighborhood Stores.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Ways & Means): PRO: We expect that the revised fiscal note, which is coming, will be adjusted downward. Oregon recently passed a similar bill and their experience indicates the bill will not cost very much in additional enforcement costs. This bill is all about access to market and provides additional opportunities for retail sales. The vast majority of Washington in-state distillers are effectively cut out of the market by the large national distillers.

OTHER: I don't think the fiscal note accurately reflects the true costs of LCB enforcement efforts required for sales at 2900 additional grocery stores.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): PRO: Amy Brackenbury, WA Food Industry Assn.; TK Bentler, WA Assn. of Neighborhood Stores; Heather McClung, WA Brewers Guild.

OTHER: Jon Martin, WA Liquor Store Assn.