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HOUSE BILL 1176

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Muri

Read first time 01/12/17. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Gaming.

1 AN ACT Relating to the alcoholic beverage mead; and amending RCW  
2 66.24.215 and 66.28.360.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 66.24.215 and 2015 c 76 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) To provide for permanent funding of the wine commission after  
7 July 1, 1989, agricultural commodity assessments must be levied by  
8 the board on wine producers and growers as follows:

9 (a) Beginning on July 1, 1989, the assessment on wine producers  
10 is two cents per gallon on sales of packaged Washington wines.

11 (b) Beginning on July 1, 1989, the assessment on growers of  
12 Washington vinifera wine grapes is levied as provided in RCW  
13 15.88.130.

14 (c) After July 1, 1993, assessment rates under (a) of this  
15 subsection (~~((1)(a) of this section)~~) may be changed pursuant to a  
16 referendum conducted by the Washington wine commission and approved  
17 by a majority vote of wine producers. The weight of each producer's  
18 vote must be equal to the percentage of that producer's share of  
19 Washington vinifera wine production in the prior year.

20 (d) After July 1, 1993, assessment amounts under (b) of this  
21 subsection (~~((1)(b) of this section)~~) may be changed pursuant to a

1 referendum conducted by the Washington wine commission and approved  
2 by a majority vote of grape growers. The weight of each grower's vote  
3 must be equal to the percentage of that grower's share of Washington  
4 vinifera grape sales in the prior year.

5 (e) After July 1, 2015, the assessment amounts under this section  
6 may not be levied on the production of cider as defined in RCW  
7 66.24.210.

8 (f) After January 1, 2018, the assessment amounts under this  
9 section may not be levied on the production of mead. For purposes of  
10 this section, "mead" means a wine or malt beverage of which honey  
11 represents the largest percentage of the starting fermentable sugars  
12 by weight of the finished product and that:

13 (i) Is derived from a mixture of honey and water, which may  
14 contain hops, fruit, spices, grain, and other agricultural products  
15 or flavors; and

16 (ii) Is sold or offered for sale as mead.

17 (2) Assessments collected under this section must be disbursed  
18 quarterly to the Washington wine commission for use in carrying out  
19 the purposes of chapter 15.88 RCW.

20 (3) Prior to July 1, 1996, a referendum must be conducted to  
21 determine whether to continue the Washington wine commission as  
22 representing both wine producers and grape growers. The voting may  
23 not be weighted. The wine producers must vote whether to continue the  
24 commission's coverage of wineries and wine production. The grape  
25 producers must vote whether to continue the commission's coverage of  
26 issues pertaining to grape growing. If a majority of both wine and  
27 grape producers favor the continuation of the commission, the  
28 assessments must continue as provided in subsection ~~((+2))~~ (1)(b)  
29 and (d) of this section. If only one group of producers favors the  
30 continuation, the assessments may only be levied on the group which  
31 favored the continuation.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 66.28.360 and 2014 c 54 s 1 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 (1) Licensees holding either a license that permits or a license  
35 with an endorsement that permits the sale of beer to a purchaser in a  
36 container supplied by the licensee or a sanitary container brought to  
37 the premises by the purchaser and filled at the tap at the time of  
38 sale may similarly sell cider and mead to a purchaser in such a

1 container. Nothing in this section relieves a licensee from complying  
2 with federal law.

3 (2) For purposes of this section, "cider" has the same meaning as  
4 in RCW 66.24.210(6) and "mead" has the same meaning as in RCW  
5 66.24.215.

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