

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1672

As Passed House:
March 1, 2019

Title: An act relating to recorking wine at wineries and tasting rooms.

Brief Description: Allowing recorking wine at wineries and tasting rooms.

Sponsors: Representatives Steele, Kirby, Rude, Jenkin, Eslick and Doglio.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Gaming: 2/5/19, 2/7/19 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/1/19, 95-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows customers to remove recorked wine, purchased for on-premises consumption, from domestic wineries and tasting rooms.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & GAMING

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Stanford, Chair; Reeves, Vice Chair; MacEwen, Ranking Minority Member; Chambers, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Blake, Dufault, Kirby, Kloba, Vick and Young.

Staff: Kyle Raymond (786-7190).

Background:

The Liquor and Cannabis Board issues a domestic winery license that authorizes in-state wine manufacturing.

A domestic winery is authorized to distribute and sell the wine it produces for retail, and licensees must comply with applicable wine distribution and retail laws and rules. During an event held by a nonprofit with a special occasion license, a domestic winery licensee is authorized to take orders and accept payment for the wine it produces during events. Also, a

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domestic winery may obtain an endorsement to sell its wine at a qualifying farmers' market for off-premises consumption.

Summary of Bill:

A customer of a licensed domestic winery may remove any unused portion of wine from the premises of the winery or tasting room, provided the wine is: (1) recapped or recorked; (2) in its original container; and (3) purchased for on-premises consumption.

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 bill is simple and straightforward. Both consumers and wineries are confused about current law. Most consumers do not realize this is an issue because they are allowed to remove bottles of wine from restaurants. Winery customers often request that unused portions of wine be recorked, so they can take it home with them. This bill would create clarity and certainty for the Liquor and Cannabis Board.

This bill helps substance abuse prevention through removing the incentive people have to finish a bottle of wine before they get back on the road. It would be better for public safety if domestic winery customers sampled the wine and took the bottle home with them. This bill may result in an open container violation, and the customer should have that information. There could also be a seal placed over the cork.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Steele, prime sponsor; Seth Dawson, Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention; James McMahan, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs; Chris Thompson, Liquor and Cannabis Board; and Josh McDonald, Washington Wine Institute.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.