

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2947

---

---

As of February 24, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to special occasion licenses.

**Brief Description:** Concerning special occasion licenses.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Wood, Conway, Condotta and Ormsby.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/10/10, 96-0.

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/22/10.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Staff:** Ingrid Mungia (786-7423)

**Background:** A not-for-profit society or organization may obtain a special occasion retail liquor license to sell spirits, beer, and wine by the individual serving for on-premises consumption at a specified date and time. With prior permission from the Liquor Control Board, a special occasion licensee may also sell beer and wine in original unopened containers for off-premises consumption. The fee for a special occasion license is \$60 per day. Sales under this license are limited to 12 calendar days per year.

The liquor tied house law prohibits a liquor manufacturer or distributor (industry member) from providing moneys' worth to a retailer. This law has been interpreted to prohibit the extension of credit to retailers. A number of exceptions have been enacted. One exception allows an industry member to provide services to a special occasion licensee for the installation of draft beer dispensing equipment or advertising; or the advertising, pouring, or dispensing of beer or wine at a beer or wine tasting exhibition or judging event.

**Summary of Bill:** Two additional exceptions are added to the tied house law regarding special occasion licenses. Special occasion licensees may pay for beer or wine immediately following the end of a special occasion event. In addition, wineries or brewers that are participating in a special occasion event may pay reasonable table fees to the special occasion licensee.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

---

*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.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: We agree with the use of the term reasonable for describing table fees. It just puts some parameters around table fees that can be charged for these events.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Jean Leonard, Washington Wine Institute.