

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6114

As Passed Senate, February 7, 1996

Title: An act relating to providing liquor to persons under age twenty-one.

Brief Description: Increasing the penalty for providing liquor to persons under age twenty-one.

Sponsors: Senators Kohl, Roach, Owen, Long, Smith, Winsley, Quigley, McAuliffe, Prentice, Franklin, Spanel, Haugen, Goings, Heavey and Schow.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 1/22/96, 1/31/96 [DP].
Passed Senate, 2/7/96, 46-2.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Smith, Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Goings, Hargrove, Haugen, Johnson, Long, McCaslin, Quigley, Roach and Schow.

Staff: Lidia Mori (786-7755)

Background: Any person who sells, gives, or otherwise supplies liquor to a person under the age of 21, or permits the consumption of liquor on his or her premises or any premises under his or her control by a person under age 21, is guilty of violating the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act. The violation is a misdemeanor, and the punishment for the first offense is a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than two months or both.

There is concern that the current penalty for supplying liquor to a person under age 21 or allowing consumption of liquor by a person under age 21 is not commensurate with the serious consequences that can ensue when the violation occurs.

Summary of Bill: It is a gross misdemeanor to sell, give, or supply liquor to a person under the age of 21. A person who allows a youth under the age of 21 to consume liquor on premises owned by the person or under his or her control is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: A violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act is just a misdemeanor. There is hope that stiffer penalties will deter adults from furnishing liquor to those under 21

years of age. This bill does not create a new obligation or standard of conduct. It sends an important message to the public.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Kohl, prime sponsor; Janice Blair; Randy Blair; Robert Carpenter; Gary Gilbert, Liquor Control Board; Janice Skinner, Active Disabled of Grays Harbor.