

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 2218

Reorganizing the liquor control board.

Brief title

Hearing Date 3/2/99

Reps Romer and Schmidt,

Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Lundin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

Legislation enacted in 1933 ending prohibition in this state and establishing laws regulating liquor.

The Liquor Control Board as established had three members who collected taxes and administered liquor laws, including:

- The general management and supervision of the state liquor stores and the board's monopoly operations;
- The authority to adopt rules controlling liquor;
- The authority to hear appeals from actions taken by the board.

Members of the board are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate and serve staggered two-year terms on a full-time basis.

SUMMARY:

The nature of the Liquor Control Board's regulatory and administrative functions over a two-year period will become regulatory without administrative responsibilities. The Department of Liquor Control established at the end of this two-year period will assume the board's administrative responsibilities and administer the state's liquor operations. The department will be headed by a director who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

1. Transition.

The Liquor Control Board retains administrative control over the state's liquor operations during the transition

period which commences the nine days after adjournment ends on July, 2001. However the chair of the Board gives the added responsibility of staff during the transition period, rather than the Board itself.

The board remains a full-body during the transition period.

2. July, 2001.

Commencing July, 2001 the Liquor Control Board loses its administrative powers but retains the authority to establish and hear appeals. The Board becomes part-time at that time, with its members receiving compensation at a per diem rate of \$100.

The Department of Liquor Control is established July, 2001 to assume the administrative responsibilities of the Liquor Control Board and administer the state's liquor laws and operations. The Governor appoints a director of the department who is the executive head of the department. The director is subject to confirmation by the Senate and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. All prior administrative powers, duties and functions of the Liquor Control Board are transferred to the director. The director supervises and administers the operations of the department, employs persons following the state civil service laws, appoints assistants and special assistants, contracts, appoints advisory committees and delegates powers to employees. A number of statutory relations specific administrative actions of the board are amended to provide that either the director or the department make those actions.

The director is required to prepare an integrated plan that includes a number of items, including programs to achieve efficiency, a public and consumer information program, a plan to reduce use of preventable and responsible consumption, and a strategy implementation plan.

The Code Reviser is directed to prepare and present a bill to the 2000 legislature that corrects references to the Liquor Control Board that are rendered inaccurate by this legislation.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Nine days after adjournment of the session in which it is passed.