
Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

SSB 5774

Brief Description: Authorizing applications for a special permit to allow alcohol tasting by persons at least eighteen years of age under certain circumstances.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Hewitt, Holmquist Newbry, McAuliffe, Bailey, Keiser, Conway, Schoesler, Kohl-Welles, Mullet and Kline).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes the Liquor Control Board to issue a special permit to a community or technical college to allow students who are at least 18 years old, but still under age 21, and enrolled in a class that is part of a culinary, wine technology, beer technology, or spirituous technology-related degree program, to lawfully taste alcohol subject to specified legal conditions.

Hearing Date:

Staff: Thamas Osborn (786-7129).

Background:

Students who are under 21 years old and enrolled in a culinary, wine technology, beer technology, or spirituous technology-related degree program cannot taste alcoholic beverages as part of their course work, as it is unlawful for a person under the age of 21 years to possess, consume, or otherwise acquire liquor. Additionally, it is unlawful for any person to give or supply liquor to anyone under the age of 21, or to allow them to consume liquor on premises under his or her control.

The Liquor Control Board (LCB) issues a variety of licenses and special permits for selling, serving, and handling alcohol. For example, special permits are issued to allow for the

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consumption of liquor at banquets and to allow a manufacturer or distributor to donate liquor to delegates and guests at conventions and international trade fairs. Unless a fee is specified in statute, the fees for permits are generally established by the LCB.

Summary of Bill:

The LCB is authorized to issue a special permit to a community or technical college to allow students who are at least 18 years old, yet still under age 21, and enrolled in a class that is part of a culinary, wine technology, beer technology, or spirituous technology-related degree program, to lawfully taste alcohol provided the following criteria are met:

- The permit applicant must be a qualifying community or technical college.
- The alcohol is tasted but not consumed by the student.
- The tasting of the alcohol is for the purpose of educational training as part of the class curriculum and is approved by the educational provider.
- The service and tasting of alcoholic beverages is supervised by a faculty or staff member who is 21 years of age or older and who possesses the requisite alcohol servers permit issued by the LCB.
- An enrolled student permitted to taste an alcoholic beverage under this act may not purchase the alcoholic beverage.

The LCB is required to waive any permit fees that might otherwise be applicable.

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.