

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5238

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Commerce & Labor, February 22, 2013

Title: An act relating to recommendations for streamlining reporting requirements for taxes and fees on spirits.

Brief Description: Concerning recommendations for streamlining reporting requirements for taxes and fees on spirits.

Sponsors: Senators Holmquist Newbry and Conway.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Commerce & Labor: 2/11/13, 2/22/13 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Holmquist Newbry, Chair; Braun, Vice Chair; Conway, Ranking Member; Hasegawa, Hewitt, Keiser and King.

Staff: Edith Rice (786-7444)

Background: The Department of Revenue (DOR) is responsible for collection of a variety of different taxes in Washington State, including spirits taxes. The Liquor Control Board (LCB) issues a variety of licenses, permits, and endorsements for production, sales, and service of beer, wine, and spirits. Both agencies may be required to interact with businesses and taxpayers in a variety of transactions involving liquor. This may be cause for some confusion. For example: in order to enforce reporting or payment of spirits taxes DOR must notify LCB when a taxpayer is more than 30 days delinquent. LCB must suspend or refuse to renew or issue a spirits license to the delinquent spirits taxpayer until such time as DOR is satisfied that the spirits taxpayer is current in reporting or remitting spirits taxes.

Summary of Bill: LCB and DOR must make recommendations to the Legislature to streamline the collection of liquor taxes, fees, and reports and require a single state agency to collect both revenue and information. Recommendations are to be submitted to the Legislature electronically by Sept. 30, 2013.

Appropriation: None.

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.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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: Simplification for the multiple reporting requirements would be helpful.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Carolyn Logue, WA Food Industry Assn.