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**Commerce & Gaming Committee**

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**ESB 5504**

**Brief Description:** Allowing additional liquor distributor employees to stock liquor under certain circumstances.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hewitt and Hasegawa.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill**

- Permits 18- to 21-year-old employees of alcoholic beverage distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers to handle alcoholic products on both retail and nonretail premises.

**Hearing Date:** 3/17/15

**Staff:** David Rubenstein (786-7153).

**Background:**

Possession, consumption, or acquisition of alcohol is generally prohibited for minors under the age of 21. Certain exceptions have been authorized for employees between the ages of 18 and 21 who work for liquor licensees permitted to sell alcoholic beverages at retail (sometimes called retail-class licensees). Employees of nonretail-class liquor licensees (including distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers acting as distributors) who are at least 18 years old may handle beer and wine on the nonretail premises if a person at least 21 years old supervises.

**Summary of Bill:**

Employees of a nonretail-class licensee who are between 18 and 21 years old may handle any kind of liquor on nonretail premises if supervised by an adult who is at least 21 years old.

On retail premises, minor employees of nonretail-class licensees may handle liquor if there is an employee of the retail licensee who is at least 21 years old on the premises at the time of the activity. This exception applies only between the hours of 4 a.m. and 11 p.m. and is limited to these circumstances, except where otherwise allowed by law.

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*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.*

If a nonretail-class licensee's employee violates the law while on retail premises, the violation is the responsibility of the nonretail-class licensee. However, a retail licensee and its employees must still comply with the law.

**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.