

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1179

As of March 9, 2015

Title: An act relating to exempting cider makers from the wine commission assessment.

Brief Description: Exempting cider makers from the wine commission assessment.

Sponsors: Representatives Lytton, Buys, S. Hunt, Wilcox, Blake, Appleton, Morris, G. Hunt, Short, Walkinshaw, Tarleton, Fitzgibbon, Gregerson, Van Werven, Tharinger, Sells, Muri and MacEwen.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/03/15, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Commerce & Labor: 3/20/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Staff: Richard Rodger (786-7461)

Background: The Washington Wine Commission (commission) was created in 1987 to represent both the producers of wine and the growers of vinifera wine grapes. The commission undertakes research, promotional, and educational activities to help its industry. The commission is funded through a liter tax on the sales of wine and cider and through a commodity assessment on wine producers and growers.

Cider is a table wine with at least 0.5 percent and up to 7 percent alcohol by volume, and is made from fermenting the juice of apples or pears.

Summary of Bill: Legislative findings state that the commission's efforts are, by definition, focused on vinifera wine grape growers and producers. The Legislature finds that the cider industry requires its own unique marketing efforts and the industry can support their own efforts with the elimination of the current commodity assessments on cider.

The commodity assessments levied on wine producers and growers of vinifera wine grapes do not apply to the production of cider after July 1, 2015.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2015.