

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 6584

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Commerce & Labor

**Title:** An act relating to liquor licensees holding a caterer's endorsement.

**Brief Description:** Modifying liquor licensing provisions.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Commerce & Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Hewitt, McAuliffe, Honeyford and Eide).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Commerce & Labor: 2/19/04, 2/23/04 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Permits caterers licensed to sell alcoholic beverages to operate on the premises of wineries, under certain conditions.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Conway, Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; McMorris, Ranking Minority Member; Condotta, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Crouse, Holmquist, Kenney and McCoy.

**Staff:** Susan Kavanaugh (786-7106).

**Background:**

Restaurants that are licensed by the Liquor Control Board (Board) to sell either beer and wine only or hard liquor also may obtain a caterer's endorsement that permits them to sell these alcoholic beverages off the licensed premises at special event locations. Events must be either sponsored by a non-profit society, in which case the public may attend, or limited to members and their guests.

Under Washington's three-tier liquor control system, caterers, like other licensed retailers, are prohibited from operating on property owned by a manufacturer, importer or distributor of alcoholic beverages. This means caterers cannot operate on the

premises of a winery, brewery or distillery.

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**Summary of Bill:**

Caterers that have an endorsement permitting them to sell either beer and wine or hard liquor also may sell on the premises of a Washington winery under the following conditions:

- Agreements between the winery and the caterer are in writing, filed with the Board, and do not contain exclusivity clauses regarding alcohol to be served; and
  - The event sponsors have separate contracts with the winery and the caterer, and pay them separately for their services.
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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** A winery can sell its own product under current law, but cannot sell a wider variety of alcoholic beverages. Wineries are a popular spot for weddings, and many people are interested in serving sparkling wine at weddings, but you cannot do that at a winery unless the sparkling wine is produced there.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Persons Testifying:** Lorraine Lee, Liquor Control Board; Michael Transue, Washington Restaurant Association; and Jean Leonard, Washington Wine Institute.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.