

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1563

As Reported by House Committee On: Commerce & Gaming

Title: An act relating to liquor-related privileges of students who are enrolled in certain degree programs.

Brief Description: Concerning liquor-related privileges of students enrolled in certain degree programs.

Sponsors: Representatives Jenkin, Blake, Vick, Dent, Young, Kloba, MacEwen and Wylie.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Gaming: 1/31/19, 2/4/19 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Adds certain on campus and field trip alcohol tastings to those eligible to receive the special permit from the Liquor and Cannabis Board that authorizes the tasting of alcoholic beverages by underage students enrolled in specified culinary or alcoholic beverage technology classes.
- Allows domestic winery licensees to allow qualified student volunteers to engage in wine-production work.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & GAMING

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Stanford, Chair; Reeves, Vice Chair; MacEwen, Ranking Minority Member; Chambers, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Blake, Dufault, Kirby, Kloba, Vick and Young.

Staff: Kyle Raymond (786-7190).

Background:

The Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) is authorized to issue a special permit to a community or technical college to allow certain students to lawfully taste alcohol. To qualify, students must be at least 18 years old and enrolled in a class that is part of a culinary,

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wine technology, beer technology, or spirituous technology-related degree program. The issuance of the permit requires that the following criteria be met:

- the permit applicant must be a qualifying community or technical college student;
- 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 server permit issued by the LCB; and
- an enrolled student permitted to taste an alcoholic beverage under this act may not purchase the alcoholic beverage.

The LCB must waive any otherwise applicable permit fees.

Summary of Bill:

The events under which eligible community or technical colleges may receive the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) special permit, allowing the tasting of alcohol by underage students enrolled in specified culinary or alcoholic beverage technology classes, is expanded to include tastings that occur: (1) on the premises of the college or university at which the student is enrolled; and (2) field trips to grape-growing areas or production facilities. Students must be accompanied by a faculty or staff member who is 21 years of age or older and who possesses the requisite alcohol server permit issued by the LCB.

Domestic winery licensees are permitted to allow volunteers, between the ages of 18 to 21, to engage in wine-production work that takes place on the domestic winery's premises. A volunteer must be a student enrolled: (1) in an elective class that is part of a culinary, sommelier, wine business, enology, viticulture, wine, technology, beer technology, or spirituous technology-related degree program; and (2) at a community or technical college, regional university, or state university with a special permit. Licensees are solely responsible for any volunteer violation that occurs on the domestic winery's premises.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The bill is good for students and will significantly enhance educational programs. It is difficult to know what you are making without tasting the wine. Students can not detect tobacco and gooseberry, or understand the difference between high and low acid,

without tasting the wine. This bill will help us continue to grow the next generation of world class winemakers and growers.

Certain students between the ages of 18 and 20 are already allowed to taste, but not consume, wine in the classroom for appropriate academic disciplines. We have proven we can do this responsibly. The current law has been incredibly helpful for the success of students. Enrollment in these disciplines have trended younger to include more 18 to 21 year-old students. The program has been an integral part of providing hands on education and training necessary to produce skilled industry laborers with a focus on high quality wine growing.

The current law does not allow 18- to 21-year-old students to work in wine production. This is a problem because the industry is experiencing a labor shortage. Educational programs also have an internship component, which will prevent students who have invested in the program from graduating. This could prevent future wine industry laborers from entering the industry.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative MacEwen; Josh McDonald, Washington Wine Institute; Tim Donahue, Walla Walla Community College Viticulture and Enology; and Chris Mulick, Washington State University.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.