

HCS HB 1726 -- BEER AND INTOXICATING LIQUOR

SPONSOR: Johnson (47)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 2.

This substitute requires intoxicating and nonintoxicating beer to be brewed from malt or a malt substitute. Flavor and other non-beverage ingredients containing alcohol may be used in producing intoxicating and nonintoxicating beer but may not contribute to more than 49% of the overall alcohol content of the finished beer.

The substitute also defines "brand" and "brand extension" and specifies that a brewer or importer must offer to assign a brand extension to a wholesaler to whom he or she granted the exclusive sales territory for the brand if the brand extension was not assigned before August 28, 2006.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that beer products are expanding all the time and Missouri should be consistent with federal definitions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Johnson (47); and Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that federal regulations with new definitions and standards were enacted in January 2006. It will be costly, from an enforcement standpoint, if Missouri laws were inconsistent with the federal regulations; and some products may not be marketable in this state.

Others testifying on the bill was Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Department of Public Safety.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst