

HCS HB 913 -- LIQUOR CONTROL

SPONSOR: Schneider (Cooper, 120)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 10 to 1.

This substitute changes the laws regarding liquor control. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Updates state merchandising regulations to current trade practices so that they mirror federal regulations, addresses nonintoxicating beverages in the context of merchandising practices, and establishes charges for late liquor license renewals;
- (2) Removes the expiration date of January 1, 2007, for provisions allowing certain resorts licensed to sell intoxicating liquor by the drink at retail for consumption on the premises in Camden, Miller, and Morgan counties to remain open during the week until 3:00 a.m.;
- (3) Authorizes certain licensed wine manufacturers who allow consumption of wine on their premises to open on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m.;
- (4) Allows wineries, distillers, manufacturers, wholesalers, or brewers to provide samples for customer tasting purposes off of a retail licensed premises if no sales transactions take place. For this purpose, "sales transactions" means an actual, immediate exchange of money for immediate delivery of goods at the tasting site. Solicitations for later sales via forms or promotional materials are allowed. Wineries, distillers, manufacturers, wholesalers, or brewers may provide samples for customer tasting purposes on any temporary licensed retail premises or tax exempt organization's licensed premises; and
- (5) Allows a festival district promotional association to obtain a license to sell intoxicating liquor and nonintoxicating beer for consumption at the businesses and common areas within the festival district.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$56,838 in FY 2008, an income of \$86,171 in FY 2009, and a cost of \$4,874 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill represents many months of discussions among the interested parties. Current regulations over-regulate promotional merchandise.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper (120); Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association; and Anheuser-Busch, Incorporated.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the trade practice regulations contained in the bill are the consensus of ad hoc committees that have met and discussed these issues over time. The charges established for late license renewals will eliminate the need for extra documentation and will streamline the process for the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

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