

HB 279 -- SALE OF DRAFT BEER

SPONSOR: Cornejo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill allows any person who is licensed to sell intoxicating liquor in the original package at retail under Section 311.200, RSMo, to sell between 32 to 128 ounces of draft beer to customers in containers filled by an employee of the retailer on the premises for consumption off the retail premises. Specifications for the labeling and sealing of the containers, compliance with federal law, and health and safety regulations for filling and refilling containers are specified in the bill. An employee filling or refilling containers with draft beer must be 21 years of age or older.

Any provision of law or rule of regulation of the Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control in the Department of Public Safety cannot be interpreted to allow any manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor of intoxicating liquor to provide dispensing or cooling equipment or containers to any person who is licensed to sell intoxicating liquor in the original package at retail.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow the sale of draft beer containers by retailers. Currently, some restaurants can sell the products, but the bill creates a uniform practice that will meet customer demand for draft beer products. The bill has health and safety regulations to ensure that containers are properly sealed and not filled by those under 21 years of age.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cornejo; David Brouder, Missouri Small Brewers Guild; Aaron Banks; Kathryn Ann Harness; and Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it has been drafted to ensure health and safety.

Testifying on the bill were Jay Reichard; and Jennifer Durham.