



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Bill Description: Winery Workforce Development and Employees Under 21 Years of Age

Bill Number: HB 1289

Sponsor: Representative Kelly Chambers

Effective Date: July 25, 2021

Amends: RCW 66.44.318

Background

The Legislature enacted EHB 1563 in 2019, which authorized wineries to employ interns between the ages of 18 and 21 to engage in work related to wine production if they were students enrolled at a public higher education institution holding a permit and taking a course as part of a degree program related to alcohol industries. Advocates for HB 1289, including Walla Walla area wineries that have seen significant expansion in recent years, this year sought to further expand winery workforce development efforts beyond the population of students enrolled in alcohol-related degree programs at the public higher education institutions.

Bill Summary

This new law allows employees aged 18 to 21 years to engage in wine production work and work in a winery's production facility, as the interns were previously allowed to do if enrolled in the specified college degree programs. These employees may only perform such work if there is an adult aged 21 years or older on duty and supervising the work on the premises.

The under 21-year-old employees are not authorized to taste, consume, sell, or serve wine or liquor.

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