



Bill Title: Wine Labels
Bill Number: SHB 1812
Effective Date: July 26, 2009
Amends RCW 66.28.110.

Background:

Manufacturers, producers, bottlers, and distributors of wine must put on packages information as to the identity and quality of the wine, alcoholic content, net contents, and the name of the producer, manufacturer, or bottler. By rule, the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) allows a wine to be labeled with an appellation of origin if at least 75 percent of its volume is derived from both fruit or other agricultural products grown in the place or region indicated.

Summary:

Standards are placed on the use of the appellation of origin "Washington" claimed or implied anywhere on a wine label.

- If the label states "Washington," at least 95 percent of the grapes used in the production of the wine must have been grown in Washington.
- If the label states "Washington" and the name of an American Viticultural Area (AVA) located wholly within Washington, at least 95 percent of the grapes used in the production of the wine must have been grown in Washington.
- If the label states "Washington" and the name of an AVA located in both Washington and an adjoining state, at least 95 percent of the grapes used in the production of the wine must have been grown in the AVA or in Washington.

The standards do not apply to wine produced with the addition of wine spirits, brandy, or alcohol.

The standards apply to wine made from grapes harvested after December 31, 2009.