



Bill Title: Beer and Wine Tasting at Farmers Markets
Bill Number: SHB 1172
Effective Date: July 22, 2011
Amends: RCW 66.24.170, RCW 66.24.244, RCW 66.28.040
New Section: Chapter 66.24 RCW
Interim Policy: [BIP -03-2011](#)

Background:

This bill adds a new section to Chapter 66.24 RCW that creates a beer and wine tasting pilot at qualified farmers markets.

The pilot will consist of 10 farmers markets with at least six tastings to be held at each market between September 1, 2011, and November 1, 2012.

Summary:

To qualify for the pilot:

- Farmers markets chosen to participate must be authorized on January 1, 2011, to allow breweries, microbreweries and/or wineries to sell beer and bottled wine at retail; and
- A brewery, microbrewery or winery offering samples must have an endorsement on May 1, 2011, from the WSLCB to sell beer or wine of its own production at a farmer's market.

Samples may be offered only under the following conditions:

- Only one brewery, microbrewery or winery may offer samples at a farmers market per day;
- Each sample must be two ounces or less, up to a total of four ounces per customer per day;
- A brewery, microbrewery or winery may provide only one sample of any single brand and type of beer or wine to a customer per day;

- A brewery, microbrewery or winery may advertise that it offers samples only at the winery's or microbrewery's booth, stall, or other designated location at the farmer's market;
- Customers must remain at the brewery's or winery's booth, stall, or other designated location while sampling;
- Brewery, microbrewery and winery licensees and employees involved in sampling activities must hold a mandatory alcohol server training permit (MAST);
- A brewery, microbrewery or winery must have food available for customers to consume while sampling beer or wine, or must be adjacent to a vendor offering prepared food;
- If a winery, brewery, or microbrewery commits a public safety violation in conjunction with tasting activities, the Board may suspend the winery or microbrewery's farmer's market endorsement for up to two years. If mitigating circumstances exist, the Board may offer a monetary penalty in lieu of suspension during a settlement conference.
- The WSLCB may prohibit sampling at a farmer's market that is within a Board recognized alcohol impact if the Board finds that the sampling activities at the market are having an adverse effect on the reduction of chronic public inebriation in the area.

The WSLCB will report on the pilot project to the Legislature by December 1, 2012.

Selection process for pilot participation:

- WSLCB staff will develop an interim pilot project tasting policy present to the Board at the June 22, 2011, Board meeting for approval.
- The WSLCB Licensing and Regulation Division will send letters to all farmers markets listed in the Licensing system by July 1, 2011, asking if they are interested in being part of the pilot. The Interim Board Policy will be included in the letter. Markets will be asked to notify Licensing by July 15, 2011, if they are interested in being considered for the pilot.
- The Licensing and Regulation Division will separate farmers markets interested in the pilot project by geographic areas.

Markets will be chosen by lottery from each group at the July 27, 2011, Board meeting.

- License Division will notify the farmers markets chosen for the pilot project by August 1, 2011.

Contact Information

For specific questions, please contact WSLCB Customer Service at 360-664-1600 or www.liq.wa.gov.