



Bill Description: Increasing allowable domestic brewery and microbrewery licenses, modifying keg registration requirements, and allowing dogs on certain brewery and microbrewery premises.

Bill Number: HB 2412

Sponsor: Representative Monica Stonier

Effective Date: June 11, 2020

Amends: RCW 66.24.244; RCW 66.28.200; RCW 66.28.210; and RCW 266.28.220; and reenacts and amends RCW 66.24.240

Background

The Washington Brewer's Guild was the proponent of this bill. Originally, this bill sought to expand opportunities for growth available to small businesses holding brewery or microbrewery licenses in Washington. Breweries cannot operate stand-alone tasting rooms like wineries can. Instead, the initial proposal would have allowed for expanded retail activity by increasing the number of taverns or restaurants a domestic brewery could operate from two to four. It would have also statutorily authorized dogs to be on these premises.

A separate bill requested by the Washington Brewer's Guild, HB 2319, would have eliminated current law requirements for keg registration. That bill died in the Senate after passing the House, but the Senate did include some provisions from HB 2319 into HB 2412. The keg registration process includes requirements to attach a sticker to each keg with information about the transaction to assist in tracking the purchaser and location of kegs. Brewers complain of the cost and burden of following the keg registration requirements. The Liquor and Cannabis Board supported the 'keg sticker' bill because removing the sticker tracking requirement eliminates the cost of providing keg registration booklets and stickers, which were rarely used by the LCB for enforcement investigation purposes.

Bill Summary

- Increases the number of retail liquor licenses a domestic brewery or microbrewery may hold from two to four. These licenses allow the brewery or microbrewery to operate a tavern, beer and wine restaurant or spirits, beer, and wine restaurant license, either at the brewery location or elsewhere.
- Exempts domestic breweries and microbreweries (but not taverns or restaurants) from keg registration requirements.
- Exempts a person who purchases a keg from a domestic brewery or microbrewery from several requirements, including providing a piece of identification and keeping a declaration and receipt next to or adjacent to the keg.
- Requires the State Board of Health to adopt rules to allow dogs on the premises of breweries and microbreweries that do not serve food requiring a food service permit.

Contact Information:

If you have questions, please contact [Chris Thompson, Director of Legislative Relations](#).