



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Bill Description: Creating an Emergency Liquor Permit

Bill Number: HB 2204

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Waters

Effective Date: 6/6/2024

Amends: Amends 66.20.010

Background

Manufacturers of alcohol are allowed to sell wine/beer/spirits of their own production at their own licensed premises. However, they could not sell someone else's wine/beer/spirits at their location. There are limited allowances where more than one manufacturer can share a production site, but in general, they cannot sell their products directly at another licensed facility.

In 2023, wildfires in southwest Washington resulted in road closures that made it impossible for people to go to several wineries near the Columbia Gorge. Other nearby wineries whose tasting rooms remained accessible offered to display and sell wines of the impacted wineries. There was no permit type that would enable this, and thus this activity was not allowed.

Summary

HB 2204 creates a new permit to allow a licensed manufacturer (like a winery, brewery, or distillery) to sell their products at a different licensee's location in the event of a road closure or event like a natural disaster. The permit lasts for 30 days, and would allow the holder of the permit to store alcohol at the other licensed facility in segregated storage. A maximum of three impacted permit-holders could sell at a single licensed facility. If the city, county, or state government declares a disaster, the permit fee is waived.