

HB 101 -- LIQUOR AND WINE TASTING

SPONSOR: Loehner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill allows any winery, distiller, manufacturer, wholesaler, or brewer or designated employee, with the permission of the licensee, to provide samples for customer tasting purposes at licensed retail premises that have a special permit or a by-the-drink-for-consumption-on-the-premises-where-sold retail license. No money or anything of value can be given to the retailer for the privilege or opportunity to conduct the tasting.

An employee of or a sampling service retained by a winery, distiller, manufacturer, wholesaler, or brewer may dispense distilled spirits, wine, or malt beverage samples. All employees of a sampling service who actually dispense samples must complete a server training program approved by the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control within the Department of Public Safety.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is a compromise between various interested groups, including beer and liquor wholesalers and wineries, as a result of negotiations during the interim. Tastings are already being held. The bill only changes who will be authorized to pour.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Loehner; Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association; Anheuser-Busch, Incorporated; MillerCoors, LLC; Glazer's Family of Companies; and Cory Bomgaars, Missouri Vintners' Association and Les Bourgeois Vineyards.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.