

HB 450 -- WINE SALES

SPONSOR: Meiners

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill allows a person to take home an open bottle of wine from a restaurant. The wine must have been purchased with a meal; the person must retain the receipt for the meal; and the wine must be resealed before leaving the restaurant. The person would be exempt from any open container violation as long as the new seal on the wine bottle remained intact.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will reduce incidences of drunkenness and drunk driving because people won't feel compelled to finish an entire bottle of wine before leaving a restaurant. Instead, they will be more inclined to drink wine during their meal and take home any that is left.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Meiners; and Adam Puchta Wineries.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst