

HCS HB 895 -- INSPECTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires the supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to approve or deny any application for primary American source of supply for any intoxicating liquor product within five working days following the receipt of the properly completed application. Any application that is not approved or denied within five working days shall be considered conditionally approved and the product may be solicited, sold, shipped, ordered, purchased, and received in Missouri.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the federal government currently approves labels, but, those who want to sell in Missouri have to go through a similar process in the state. Alcohol and Tobacco Control has employment issues, and labels are not approved or denied in a timely fashion. In this state, the approval process is eight weeks, whereas it is two weeks in other states. Additionally, there are some products that will never leave Missouri, and it is a big issue getting products onto shelves in this state because the approval process is longer than in any other state. Last year there were 40,000 label applications, and some of the products are seasonal, which means those labels need to be approved more quickly or the products will never make it onto the shelves.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hill; Southern Glazers Wine And Spirits; Missouri Beer Wholesalers Associations; Anheuser-Busch Companies; and MillerCoors, LLC.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that there is no known instance of a label being denied, so it should not be an issue giving conditional approval on the state level.

Testifying on the bill was Keith Hendrikson, Department of Public Safety, Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.