

HCS HB 1141 -- INTOXICATING LIQUOR

SPONSOR: Fraker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill specifies that any person, firm, or corporation who owns and operates more than one premise licensed to sell intoxicating liquor at retail may, with the permission of the supervisor of liquor control, designate one or more places in this state as a central warehouse in which liquor, except beer and other malt liquor, purchased from a wholesaler may be delivered and stored. The liquor stored in such warehouses may then be transferred to any premise in the state licensed to sell intoxicating liquor at retail which is owned and operated by the same person, firm, or corporation.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill gives retailers the option to store their stock in a central location and deliver it to individual stores as needed. Retailers can do this now but they can only deliver the liquor to stores in counties adjacent to the warehouse. But there is no reason for that restriction. Liquor prices don't vary from territory to territory, the price is the same regardless of where in the state it is purchased.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fraker; Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; and the Missouri Retailers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill just ask that the bill be amended to clarify that the warehouse has to be in this state and the liquor has to be purchased in this state.

Testifying on the bill was Randall's Wines & Spirits.