

HCS HB 1664 -- RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES

SPONSOR: Spencer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill simplifies the retail liquor licensing laws. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Establishes only four types of retail liquor licenses: intoxicating liquor in the original package not for consumption on the premises where sold; intoxicating liquor by the drink at retail for consumption on the premises where sold; beer and wine in the original package not for consumption on the premises where sold; beer and wine by the drink at retail for consumption on the premises where sold;
- (2) Specifies that all licenses will be valid for every day of the week and for all hours of the day that the licensed premises is authorized by law to remain open;
- (3) Requires a criminal background check on all license applicants prior to issuance of the license; and
- (4) Makes changes to terms used in current law to be consistent with the new retail license terminology, repeals retail licensing provisions in current law, and repeals intersectional references to laws repealed in the bill.

This bill is the same as HB 1303 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would simplify the liquor licensing system by reducing the types of liquor licenses to just four.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Spencer.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that there are currently sixty types of liquor licenses and reducing that number to four would be an oversimplification.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Beer Wholesaler Association; Missouri Retailers Association; Robert Pogano, Glazers Wine & Spirits; and the Missouri Grape And Wine Alliance.