

Alcoholic Beverage Control
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. John Barker, Chairman, House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

FROM: Debbi Beavers, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division

DATE: February 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Neutral Testimony on House Bill 2571

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Current law prohibits a law enforcement officer or their spouse from obtaining a new liquor license. As written, this bill would provide an exception pertaining to a new club or drinking establishment license application. The bill would authorize issuance of a new club or drinking establishment license to be issued if the spouse of an applicant is a law enforcement officer in a county other than where the license location is sought.

While the ABC is neutral as to the general intent of this bill, the current language as written does present two concerns:

1. How does this apply to multi-jurisdictional law enforcement officers such as those employed by the KBI or KHP? Does this mean that if such officer resides in a different county than the premises that a club or drinking establishment license could be issued?
2. Is the intent to only apply to club and drinking establishment licenses? The proposed new language contains a specific reference to "the club and drinking establishment license," which would result in the exception only applying to those license types. ABC would recommend that the phrase "club and drinking establishment" simply be removed, so that the proposed exception would apply to all license types for consistency.

The ABC respectfully asks for your consideration of our concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.