



Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

HB 2688

An Act concerning alcoholic beverages; relating to cereal malt beverage retailer licenses; requiring issuance thereof to a licensed farm winery.

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Proponent/Oral/In-person

On behalf of the

Kansas Grape Growers & Winemakers Association

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Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Grape Growers and Winemakers Association, I am pleased to offer our support to HB 2688 as it was passed by House February 23 on a vote of 116-5.

By way of information, the KGG&WA is the oldest and largest organization representing the Kansas grape and wine industry with over 80 winery, vineyard, and industry members.

As introduced, HB 2688 would have provided farm wineries with the opportunity to obtain a cereal malt beverage retailer's license from the county in which they are located or from the Alcoholic Beverage Control. Committee members may recall previous legislation which was to address the situation where a producer was being restricted from obtaining a CMB license even though they were licensed as a producer. The Legislature corrected that issue last year and this session the same principle is being applied to CMB and also to alcoholic beverages.

Farm wineries are already licensed to sell their products via their existing license. Requirements for "license stacking" seem inappropriate when these entities already have a license to sell wine. Under the bill, a licensing authority would not be able to deny a CMB retailer's license or a Drinking Establishment license on the basis of zoning or other regulations or city or county resolutions or ordinances.

The KGG&WA do not see their members utilizing the provisions of HB 2688 to operate bars and drinking establishments as are typically found inside a city or on the end of town, but rather enabling a farm winery to offer a full complement of alcohol-related products to their customers.

On behalf of the Kansas Grape Growers and Winemakers Association, we appreciate your time and consideration of HB 2688 and ask for you to advance this bill to the full Senate.

I would be pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

WBD