



Bill Title: Restaurant Corkage Fees
Bill Number: HB 1227
Effective Date: July 22, 2011
Amends: RCW 66.28.295 and 66.28.310
Creates a new section in Chapter 66.28 RCW

Background:

Some restaurants allow patrons to bring their own wine served by restaurant employees with the meal that the patrons purchase. Restaurants typically charge a fee, called a "corkage fee," to open and serve this wine. Restaurants are not required to charge the fee.

The liquor tied house laws regulate the relationship between liquor manufacturers and distributors ("industry members") and retailers. Under the "moneys' worth" piece, no industry member may advance money or moneys' worth to a retailer and no retailer may receive money or moneys' worth under a written or unwritten agreement or through business practices.

Summary:

The bill creates an exception to both the financial interest and moneys' worth tied house laws to allow domestic wineries and restaurants licensed to sell beer and/or wine or spirits, or beer and/or wine, to enter into an arrangement to waive a corkage fee.

Contact Information:

For specific questions, please contact the Agency Rules Coordinator, Karen McCall, at kjm@liq.wa.gov or 360-664-1631.