

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
 AB 2957 (Robert Rivas) – As Introduced February 21, 2020

Policy Committee: Governmental Organization Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

This bill allows a licensed winegrower to sell or deliver wine in containers supplied, furnished, or sold by the customer at the winegrower's offsite tasting room.

Minor and absorbable state costs.

1) **Background and purpose.** Under current law, a licensed winegrower may offer wine tasting at its own on-site tasting room and obtain a duplicate license for one off-site tasting room. Currently, approximately 1,500 winegrowers statewide have such a duplicate license for a second, off-site tasting room. These offsite tasting rooms are not authorized to sell wine to customers in customer-supplied containers.

According to the author, this bill will encourage a sustainable practice by reducing trash through the use of refillable containers. The Monterey County Vintners notes that one case of wine leaves 18 pounds of trash whereas one wine keg saves 39 bottles from being filled and later discarded.

- 2) **Expanding alcohol access and ABC's workload.** Each year this committee sees a wide array of bills that expand access to alcohol through additional licenses or a loosening of restrictions. Generally, these proposals are modest in scope and do not generate significant new workload for ABC. However, taken together, these bills can lead to significant new costs and future budget requests.

The Legislature recently acted to address ABC's persistent structural deficit. SB 82 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 29, Statutes of 2019, included fee increases that went into effect on October 1, 2019.

- 3) **Opposition.** Alcohol Justice, opposes this bill, stating it will “expand alcohol availability in a state that already aces catastrophic public health and safety harms annually.”

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