ASSEMBLY THIRD READING AB 2957 (Robert Rivas) As Introduced February 21, 2020 Majority vote

SUMMARY:

This bill would allow a licensed winegrower to sell or deliver wine in containers supplied, furnished, or sold by the customer at the winegrower's off-site tasting room.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS:

ABC administers several licenses for wine regulation. A Type-02 license authorizes the sale of wine and brandy to any person holding a license authorizing the sale of wine and brandy, and to consumers for consumption off the premises where sold. Type-02 licensees (wineries) are authorized to offer a tasting of wine for free or for a charge at their on-site tasting room. A licensed winegrower also has the ability to sell wine by the glass or bottle for consumption on or off the premise. All Type-02 licenses, which come up for renewal by June 30 of each year.

Wineries holding a Type-02 license may obtain what is known as a Duplicate Type 02 license, which allows a winery to have a tasting room away from the facilities where the wine is produced. Some wineries have tasting rooms both at the facility where they produce their wine and a tasting room at a different location. Either way, a winery may have no more than "one" offsite tasting room.

Currently, there are more than 6,100 Type-02 licensees and about 1,500 of those have a duplicate license.

Existing law prohibits a winegrower with a Type 02 license from filling or refilling containers supplied by a consumer at premises licensed with a duplicate Type 02 license. A winegrower can fill bottles that they own at premises that are licensed with a duplicate, but they cannot fill consumer-supplied containers.

According to the Author:

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.

Arguments in Support:

The Monterey County Vintners and Growers writes in support, "... with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more important to provide economic tools for wineries, particularly boutique wineries, to rebuild their businesses after being closed for tastings for months."

Arguments in 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."

FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "Minor and absorbable state costs.

VOTES:

ASM GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION: 19-0-2

YES: Gray, Bigelow, Aguiar-Curry, Berman, Bonta, Brough, Cooley, Daly, Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Low, Mathis, Melendez, Robert Rivas, Blanca Rubio, Salas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Cooper, Quirk-Silva

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 18-0-0

YES: Gonzalez, Bigelow, Bauer-Kahan, Bloom, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Megan Dahle, Diep, Eggman, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Petrie-Norris, McCarty, Robert Rivas, Voepel

UPDATED:

VERSION: February 21, 2020

CONSULTANT: Eric Johnson / G.O. / (916) 319-2531 FN: 0002844