

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2021

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 239 (Villapudua) – As Introduced January 13, 2021

Policy Committee: Governmental Organization

Vote: 22 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

### SUMMARY:

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.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No additional state costs.

**COMMENTS:**

- 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 note one wine keg saves 39 bottles from being filled and later discarded (customers' reusable containers are filled from the keg).

- 2) **Alcohol and Beverage Control's Workload.** Each year this committee sees a wide array of bills that propose to 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 the department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC). However, taken together, these bills could lead to significant new costs and future budget requests.

Two years ago, the Legislature 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 because “reducing license restrictions on containers will increase availability, promote over-consumption and therefore negatively impact public health.

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