

HB 2089 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 04/24/17
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes liquor stores and distillery retail outlet agents to sell vermouth.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recommendation of House Special Committee on Small Business Growth
- Oregon Liquor Control Commission currently offers only limited variety of vermouth
- Types of cocktails that can be made using vermouth

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Vermouth is a fortified wine that is flavored and aromatized with a variety of herbs and spices; the product derives its name from the German word "wermut," which translates as wormwood, which was originally its chief flavoring ingredient. There are a variety of different types available, with the most common being sweet vermouth (which includes up to 15 percent sugar and can be red or white) and dry vermouth (generally no more than five percent sugar and is almost exclusively white). Vermouth is commonly used as a modifier ingredient in popular cocktails such as Martinis and Manhattans.

Oregon liquor agents offer for sale 10 different varieties of vermouth. Under current law, distilleries licensed as distillery retail outlet agents may sell the distilled spirits they produce directly to consumers, and may sell sample cocktails that use vermouth, but are not permitted to sell bottles of vermouth alongside the distilled spirits they produce.

House Bill 2089 allows distillery retail outlet agents to sell up to 20 stock keeping units of vermouth, in factory-sealed containers, for off-premise consumption.