

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3197, which mandates the Legislative Revenue Officer to study the taxation of the sale of beer and wine. While I recognize the need for ongoing evaluation of tax policies, I believe that this study could lead to unnecessary complications and potential tax increases that would adversely affect consumers and local businesses.

First and foremost, the imposition of higher taxes on beer and wine sales could disproportionately impact low- and middle-income families. These consumers already face financial pressures, and increasing the cost of these products could make them less accessible. This legislation risks placing an undue burden on those who may enjoy responsibly consuming these beverages as part of their social and cultural activities.

Additionally, the potential for increased taxation on alcohol sales could negatively affect local businesses, including breweries, wineries, and restaurants. Higher taxes may lead to decreased sales, which can hurt job growth and economic stability in our communities. Supporting local businesses is essential for maintaining a vibrant economy, and this bill could undermine that goal.

Moreover, there are already established frameworks for alcohol taxation that balance public health concerns with economic interests. Rather than conducting further studies that may lead to tax increases, we should focus on promoting responsible consumption and supporting local establishments through existing programs and policies.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose HB 3197. This legislation could lead to unnecessary tax burdens on consumers and local businesses, ultimately harming our community's economic health. Let us prioritize policies that support responsible consumption and local economies rather than complicate an already established taxation framework.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.