



OREGON
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

Please Support SB 795

From the Desk of
Rep. Margaret Doherty

Margaret Doherty

The Oregon Winegrowers Association (OWA) asks that you support SB 795. The Business and Labor Committee amended the legislation to address some issues that have arisen since the start of the session related to OLCC license laws and rules. The OLCC does not oppose these fixes in SB 795. Specifically, the bill fixes the follow issues:

- Allows individuals who have “temporary” OLCC service permits to pour wine and beer growlers until they receive a regular service permit;
- Allows wine and beer growlers to be poured at “special events” not occurring at winery, brewpub or restaurant locations;
- Allows customers at wineries to take home partially consumed bottles of wine, a privilege that exists for customers at restaurants.

We appreciate the Legislature approving the wine growler bill earlier this session. OLCC’s recently announced temporary rules to implement the law do not allow individuals with “temporary” service permits to pour wine or beer growlers, even though those same individuals are allowed to serve glasses of wine, beer or spirits to customers. This “temporary” service permit is good for 45 days until a regular service permit is obtained. Allowing growler-pouring privileges for temporary service permit holders is an important fix as more OLCC licensees (restaurants, grocery stores & other retailers) start offering growlers to customers.

Growler privileges also are not allowed for licensees that seek “special event” licenses. OLCC special events licenses are required when a regular license holder (i.e.; winery, brewpub or restaurant) wants to serve wine or beer at a function away from its facility. These events include industry promotion events, festivals, fairs or other special gatherings. A clarification is needed to allow regular license holders to also pour wine and beer growlers at these licensed special events.

This bill also fixes a situation whereby some OLCC agents are telling wineries that it can’t allow consumers to take home partially consumed bottles of wine. Currently, restaurant patrons are allowed to take home partially consumed bottles when a customer chooses not to finish a bottle of wine. This is a necessary fix so winery patrons aren’t forced into one of two choices: finish a bottle of wine or throw out what remains.

Please support these important fixes contained in SB 795. Thank you.