

**HB 2089 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Business and Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/24

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

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

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**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 most 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 offer for sale up to 20 stock keeping units of vermouth, in factory-sealed containers, for off-premise consumption.

**HOUSE FLOOR VOTE: 58-0**