

HB 2355 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes minimum orchard size requirements for cider businesses producing less than 100,000 gallons of cider annually on lands zoned for exclusive farm use or mixed farm and forest use.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Reestablishes minimum orchard size requirements for cider businesses producing less than 100,000 gallons of cider annually on lands zoned for exclusive farm use or mixed farm and forest use. Creates an alternative to the 15-acre minimum by requiring that a cider business owns an on-site orchard of at least one acre, owns a farm tract of at least 20 acres that is used for other farm uses and contains the orchard, and owns a dwelling that was constructed on or before January 1, 2020 that is sited on the farm tract.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, Senate Bill 677 established a cider business as a permitted use on land zoned for exclusive farm use or mixed farm and forest use. The measure, modeled on the winery statutes, established a 15-acre minimum orchard size for businesses producing less than 100,000 gallons of cider annually, and a 40-acre minimum orchard size for businesses producing at least 100,000 gallons of cider annually. The measure also specified the related uses allowed at such businesses and authorized up to 18 agri-tourism or other commercial events at these locations each calendar year.

House Bill 2355 would remove minimum orchard size requirements for cider businesses producing less than 100,000 gallons of cider annually on lands zoned for farm use.