

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB780

Hearing Date: Monday January 23, 2012
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: Smith
One Liner: Redefine "brewpub" and "microbrewery" for purposes of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Bloomfield, Brasch, Coash, Karpisek, Krist, Lambert, Larson, McGill
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Sen. Jim Smith
Hobert Rupe
Zac Triemert
Eric Schafer

Representing:

Introducer
Liquor Control Commission
Lucky Bucket Brewing Co.
Empyrean Brewing Co.

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Currently, brewpubs, also known as microbreweries or craft breweries, have a production limit of 10,000 barrels of beer per year. LB 780 would allow brewpubs to produce up to 20,000 barrels of beer per year. One barrel contains 31 gallons or two kegs of beer.

General Background:

Nebraska's three-tier system of alcohol regulation allows for a manufacturing exception that applies to brewpubs/microbreweries and micro-distilleries in that, in addition to manufacturing alcohol, they can also sell alcohol at retail. Farm wineries also have an exception in that they can manufacture, distribute and sell their products at retail.

Russ Karpisek, Chairperson