



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2007 Senate Bill 545

Senate Amendment 1

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Current law generally prohibits the sale of alcohol beverages to consumers unless the seller possesses a license or permit authorizing the sale.

However, there are exceptions to this prohibition, and no license or permit is required, for example, for a brewery to furnish beer to visitors on brewery premises; for a municipality to sell beer in a public park; or for raffles awarding alcohol beverages in unopened containers as prizes; or for the sale by an auction house at public auction of a collection of sealed bottles of intoxicating liquor or unopened beer cans for the purpose of settling an estate or disposing of the collection.

Senate Bill 545 creates an additional exception for the auction sale of sealed bottles or containers of wine by a charitable organization at an auction held to raise money for the charitable organization.

Senate Amendment 1 to the bill does the following:

1. Expands the new exception to apply to, in addition to wine, unopened bottles of intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages.
2. Specifies that the “charitable organization” is a charitable organization as defined in s. 440.41 (1), Stats. (i.e., either an organization that is described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of that Code; or a person (individual or corporation) who is or purports to be established for a charitable purpose).

Legislative History

In executive session on March 5, 2008, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Tourism voted to introduce and adopt Senate Amendment 1, and to recommend passage of the bill as amended, on votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0.

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