



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 179
[2011 Assembly Bill 290]

“Brew-on-Premises” Businesses

2011 Wisconsin Act 179 relates to the manufacture of wine and fermented malt beverages (beer) that is not offered for sale.

Prior law provides that no alcohol beverages license or permit is required if a person manufactures wine or beer at his or her home, farm, or place of residence if the wine or beer is to be consumed by that person or his or her family and guests, and if the person receives no compensation. Also, a person is not required to pay an occupational tax on wine or beer made at home solely for consumption at home by the person’s family or guests, without compensation.

The Act creates two additional exceptions. Under the Act, neither a license or permit nor payment of an occupational tax is required for:

- The manufacture of wine or beer by any person at a business primarily engaged in selling supplies and equipment for use by homebrewers or home winemakers, and the tasting at the business of the wine or beer so manufactured, if the wine or beer is not sold or offered for sale.
- The manufacture of wine or beer for educational purposes, and the tasting of the wine or beer at the place of manufacture, if the wine or beer is not sold or offered for sale.

The Act also provides that wine or beer provided for tasting at a business primarily engaged in selling supplies and equipment for use by homebrewers or home winemakers may only be provided by a person who owns an operator’s license (i.e., a bartender’s license).

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.