Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person is not required to hold a license or permit to manufacture wine or fermented malt beverages (beer) at his or her home, farm, or place of residence if the wine or beer is to be consumed by the person or his or her family and guests and if the person receives no compensation. Also under current law, 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 and guests, without compensation.

Under this bill, a person is not required to hold a license or permit to manufacture wine or beer at a business primarily engaged in selling supplies and equipment for use by homebrewers or home winemakers, or to taste the wine or beer at this business, if the wine or beer is not sold or offered for sale. A person is also not required to hold a license or permit to manufacture wine or beer for educational purposes, or to taste the wine or beer at the place of manufacture, if the wine or beer is not sold or offered for sale. A person who manufactures wine or beer under these circumstances is also not required to pay an occupational tax. The bill also specifies that a person who manufactures wine or beer at his or her home, farm, or place of residence for consumption by the person or his or her family and guests, and who receives no compensation, is not required to pay an occupational tax on the wine or beer regardless of where it is consumed.
Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill. For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 125.06 (3g) and (3r) of the statutes are created to read:

125.06 (3g) WINE OR FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGES MADE AT SUPPLY STORES. The manufacture of wine or fermented malt beverages by any person at a business primarily engaged in selling supplies and equipment for use by homebrewers or home winemakers, and, notwithstanding s. 125.09 (1), the tasting at the business of wine or fermented malt beverages so manufactured, if the wine or fermented malt beverages are not sold or offered for sale.

125.06 (3r) WINE OR FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGES MADE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. The manufacture of wine or fermented malt beverages for educational purposes, and, notwithstanding s. 125.09 (1), the tasting of the wine or fermented malt beverages at the place of manufacture, if the wine or fermented malt beverages are not sold or offered for sale.

SECTION 2. 139.04 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

139.04 (1) Making of wine, cider or fermented malt beverages at home solely for consumption therein and use thereof in such home by the family and guests without compensation, or manufacturing wine or fermented malt beverages in compliance with the limitations specified in s. 125.06 (3), (3g), or (3r).