AN ACT to amend 125.68 (4) (c) 3m. of the statutes; relating to: closing hours for retail sales by wineries.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes changes relating to the hours in which wineries can make retail sales of wine.

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may sell alcohol beverages to a consumer unless the seller possesses a license or permit authorizing the sale. Current law allows a winery to hold a retail “Class B” license authorizing the retail sale of wine. A winery operating under a retail “Class B” license may not remain open for retail sales of wine between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

This bill changes the closing hour for wineries operating under a retail “Class B” license from 9 p.m. to midnight, but allows municipalities to establish, by ordinance, more restrictive closing hours for these wineries.

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

SECTION 1. 125.68 (4) (c) 3m. of the statutes is amended to read:

125.68 (4) (c) 3m. No premises for which a “Class B” license has been issued under s. 125.51 (3) (am) may remain open for the sale of intoxicating liquor between
the hours of 9 p.m., 12 midnight, and 8 a.m. A municipality may, by ordinance, impose more restrictive hours than are provided in this subdivision.