

Son of 1100

Fewer locations, same principle: Selling liquor isn't a core function of government

AN ACT Relating to liquor; adding a new section to chapter 66.24 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The people of Washington state desire that the state stop selling liquor, end its prohibition-era monopoly on selling distilled spirits, and instead have the liquor control board's core mission be focused on education and enforcement to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens.

(2) Through the passage of this act, the people are instructing the legislature to implement the policies, purposes and intent of Initiative 1100 except, as required by section 2(2) of this act, the only retail outlets that may sell distilled spirits are those whose retail areas exceed 9,000 square feet and those existing liquor stores that are auctioned off under section 2(2)(e). All proceeds from the auction of the liquor stores and the state's liquor distribution center shall be placed in a dedicated account in the state's general fund to be used exclusively for transition costs associated with the state getting out of the business of selling liquor and focusing instead on enforcement. The people want to limit the number of locations but maintain the same principle: Selling liquor isn't a

core function of government. Should voters approve this measure in November, 2011, every other policy in Initiative 1100, including the maintenance of current taxes but elimination of the state's sky-high mark-up, should be implemented exactly as Initiative 1000 mandated.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 66.24 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Beginning June 1, 2012, there shall be a general liquor retailer's license to sell spirits, beer, and wine at retail in original containers, not to be consumed on the premises where sold.

(2) To be issued a general liquor retailer's license, a licensee must meet the following criteria:

(a) Operate a fully enclosed retail area encompassing at least nine thousand square feet.

(b) Possess either all of the qualifications for a grocery store license as defined in RCW 66.24.360 or established by the board by rule, or all of the qualifications for a beer and/or wine specialty shop license as defined in RCW 66.24.371 or established by the board by rule.

(c) The licensee has not had more than one public safety violation of this title within the past two years.

(d) Contract liquor store operators who are otherwise eligible to obtain a general liquor retailer's license are exempt from subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(e) Contract liquor stores, state liquor stores, and the state's liquor distribution center must each be auctioned off by the state no later than June 1, 2012, with all proceeds from the auction placed in a dedicated account in the state's general fund to be used exclusively for transition costs associated with the state getting out of the business of selling liquor and focusing instead on enforcement.

(3) The annual fee for the general liquor retailer's license is two thousand dollars.

(4) There shall be a one-time application fee for the general liquor retailer's license of two thousand dollars to be submitted with

the application for the license and to be refunded if the application is not granted.

(5) Beginning June 1, 2012, there shall be a general liquor distributor's license to have the privileges of a beer distributor's license and a wine distributor's license and to sell spirits, purchased from licensed Washington distilleries, spirits certificate of approval holders, licensed spirits importers, or suppliers of foreign spirits located outside of the United States, to eligible licensed retailers and other licensed distributors and to export the same from the state. The fee is four thousand dollars per year for each distributing unit.

(6) There shall be a one-time application fee for the general liquor distributor's license of four thousand dollars to be submitted with the application for the license and to be refunded if the application is not granted.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is called the "Son of 1100 - Fewer Locations - Same Principle: Selling liquor isn't a core function of government."