



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

PRINTERS NO. 857

PRIME SPONSOR: Jozwiak

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
State Stores Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 131, printer's number 857, amends the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L. 90, No. 21), known as the Liquor Code, to further define "alcoholic cider" and add a definition for "fermented fruit beverage." The bill also amends the Liquor Code to require non-alcoholic beer come through the wholesale tier of the three-tiered system.

The effective date is 60 days after enactment.

ANALYSIS: The bill amends Section 102 of the Liquor Code to amend and add definitions as follows:

- "alcoholic cider" is amended to bring it into conformity with the federal definition of alcoholic cider (alcoholic fermentation of apples and pears), as well as the industry standard for such products;
- "fermented fruit beverage" is added and defined as a beverage which may contain carbonation produced through alcoholic fermentation of fruit, fruit juice, fruit juice concentrate and water, and sold or offered for sale not as a wine, a wine product or as a substitute for wine;

The bill amends sections 466, 505.2, and 505.4 by adding "fermented fruit beverages" to clearly provide that breweries, limited wineries, limited distilleries, and distilleries can continue to produce alcoholic beverages made from fruit other than apples and pears.

Section 431 is also amended to provide that any nonalcoholic malt or brewed beverage intended to be marketed or sold as nonalcoholic beer having at least a trace amount of alcohol content (not more than 0.5% or more by volume) must be distributed in accordance with provisions of the section.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Taglang
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 15, 2019

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.