

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 131

PRINTER NO. 857

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

State Stores Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 28, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Jozwiak

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 131 amends the Liquor Code, to further define “alcoholic cider,” add a new definition for “fermented fruit beverages” and require non-alcoholic beer come through the wholesale tier of the three-tiered system.

Specifically, the definition of “alcoholic cider” contained in the legislation is amended to bring it into conformity with the federal definition of alcoholic cider, as well as the industry standard for such products.

The legislation defines “fermented fruit beverage” as a beverage which may contain carbonation produced through alcoholic fermentation of fruit, fruit juice, fruit juice concentrate and water, and be sold or offered for sale not as a wine, a wine product or as a substitute for wine. It adds the term “fermented fruit beverages” to several sections to clarify that breweries, limited wineries, limited distilleries, and distilleries can continue to produce alcoholic beverages made from fruit other than apples and pears.

The legislation also provides that nonalcoholic malt or brewed beverages 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 through the wholesale system of importing distributors.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 131 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.