Special Committee on Liquor Law Modernization Preliminary Recommendations 11/10/2021

The draft recommendations below are based on discussion by committee members during the morning session of the November 10, 2021 meeting. Draft recommendations listed below have not been adopted by the committee, are not inclusive, and are being provided as a reference for further committee discussion and possible consideration.

State Fair

1. The Committee recommends that the appropriate House standing committee conduct hearings on 2021 SB 2, as introduced, concerning the consumption of alcohol on the grounds of the Kansas State Fair and collection of associated liquor taxes, and that the committee consider taking action on the bill.

Farm Wineries:

1. The Committee recommends that farm wineries automatically be eligible for a drinking establishment license as an agribusiness without regard to any other local building codes or restrictions and that such licensees also be automatically granted a CMB retailer's license in the same manner as producer licensees, who under current law are automatically approved for a CMB retailer's license if the applicant has already been issued a producer's license for a vineyard pursuant to KSA 41-355, provided the applicant is not otherwise disqualified from holding the retailer's license under law.

Urban Wineries:

1. The Committee recommends that the Legislature study the possibility of establishing an urban winery license that would have no Kansas agriculture requirements.

Tax Rate on Wine:

1. The Committee recommends the introduction of legislation that would amend KSA 501(b)(1) concerning the excise tax on wine to match the recently raised federal threshold of 16% ABV as opposed to the 14% ABV threshold found in current state law.