

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB899

Hearing Date: Monday February 03, 2014
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: Karpisek
One Liner: Define hard cider under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Crawford, Johnson, Karpisek, Krist, Lautenbaugh, Schilz
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	2	Senators Bloomfield, Coash

Proponents:

Sen. Russ Karpisek
Hobert Rupe
Joseph Kohout
Justin Brady
Tim Keigher

Kathy Siefken

Representing:

Introducer
NE Liquor Control Commission
Associated Beverage Distributors of Nebraska
Nebraska Liquor Wholesalers
NE Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store
Association
NE Grocery Industry Association

Opponents:

Nicole Carritt

Representing:

Project Extra Mile

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Currently, there is no definition in the Nebraska Liquor Control Act for hard cider. Hard cider has seen a resurgence in American alcohol markets. Because hard cider is produced by the fermentation of primarily apples, it is considered a wine. As a wine, distributors must have a wine-distributing license, retailers must have a wine-retailing license, and the product is taxed as a wine. The issue is that the industry markets the product more like a beer based on its packaging and alcohol content. The Nebraska Liquor Control Commission requested in its legislative letter that hard cider be reclassified as beer. LB 899 is modeled after the federal regulation definition for hard cider, except that in addition to apple, the bill includes pear and the alcohol content is 8.5 percent, which is the same as a bill called the CIDER Act that is currently being considered by Congress.

Russ Karpisek, Chairperson