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Committees:
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Tax Expenditure Review Committee
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House Health Committee
Senate Bill 195—Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday May 19, 2020

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 195.

Senate Bill 195 fixes a drafting error made to one of my budget amendments that clarifies that wine is not a pre-packaged food.

The bill would allow small wineries that are not preparing and serving food to be exempted from “retail food establishment license” requirements. This exemption can only apply when the following things occur:

- Prepackaged food sales do not exceed 5% of the previous calendar year’s total gross receipts.
- The winery annually produces, at most, ten thousand gallons of wine.
- The establishment serves only unopened commercially prepackaged food.

Small businesses around the state of Ohio are being burdened with this license, and it is negatively impacting them. These wineries are evidence that there is overregulation, as they must satisfy conditions set by the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the local boards of health.

This bill will remove the Department of Agriculture’s expensive -- ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 -- retail food establishment license fee for these wineries, freeing them from a source of overregulation and a needless fee.

If we don’t fix this, the state will continue pushing small businesses out of operation and hurt Ohioans who are trying to create jobs through an enjoyable experience for their patrons.

With the inclusion of an amendment that was agreed to by the Department of Agriculture as a result of an interested party meeting, this bill unanimously passed the Ohio Senate. As this bill will remove small

wineries from overregulation while also continuing a focus on the safety and wellness of Ohioans, it is my hope this will soon happen in the Ohio House

Thank you once again, Chairman Lipps and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.