



Representative Jeff LaRe
77th House District

House Bill 629 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 629. This piece of legislation would increase micro-distillery production limits and revise the cost for liquor tasting samples.

The first part of House Bill 629 allows those who have an A-3a liquor permit to be able to distill up to 1,000,000 gallons of spirituous liquor per year, up from the original 100,000 gallons. This increase in allowable liquor production for micro-distillers will help create opportunities for small businesses to expand and have more sales freedom in the State of Ohio. Further, this will help the pandemic recovery of these small businesses who are still finding ways to make up for lost revenue.

The second part of House Bill 629 removes the liquor sample cost requirement and allows stores with a D-8 permit to offer consumable tasting

samples on-site. This aspect of the bill will allow products to be sampled before purchase and allow smaller distillers to showcase their product, without the burden of charging consumers for samples. This bill would allow local distillers to grow their product, ultimately creating a stronger representation from the small business community in alcohol sales.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 629. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.