

## Revising license fees for wine and beer retailers

HB 1667 by Geren (Brimer)

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**DIGEST:** HB 1667 would have increased the standard fee charged for a wine and beer retailer's permit from \$175 to \$275 and would have raised the fee for a retail dealer's on-premise license from \$150 to \$250. The bill would have excepted fraternal and veterans organizations from these fee increases.

The fee in Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant counties for an original wine and beer retailer's permit and a retail dealer's on-premise license would have risen from \$750 to \$1,000, and the renewal fee for such a permit or license would have dropped to \$750 from \$1,000. The holder of a food and beverage certificate in these counties would have paid \$275 for a wine and beer retailer's permit and \$250 for a retail dealer's on-premise license.

### GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:

"House Bill No. 1667 would increase the wine and beer permit fees in Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant counties while decreasing fees for wine and beer permit holders who also have a food and beverage certificate. The bill would increase the fee for: (1) a wine and beer retailer's permit by \$100; and (2) an original wine and beer permit in connection with a food and beverage certificate by \$250. The bill also would decrease the annual renewal of wine and beer retailer's permit by \$250, and create a fee for an original wine and beer retailers permit to organizations that costs \$175.

"The bill seeks to address a local issue of regulating neighborhood bars by increasing fees and exempting restaurants from fees created during the 79th Legislature. Many of these small establishments operate in converted houses or garages in neighborhoods that lack the deed restrictions that might restrict the location of bars to commercial thoroughfares.

"I am vetoing House Bill No. 1667 because regulating businesses that engage in the alcoholic beverage industry should be accomplished through local ordinances in conjunction with an increased presence of law enforcement to preserve public safety, not through increased fees that are intended to price out businesses from existence."

**RESPONSE:** Neither Rep. Charlie Geren, the bill's author, nor Sen. Kim Brimer, the Senate sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

**NOTES:** HB 1667 was analyzed in the April 19 *Daily Floor Report*.