



## Assemblymember Robert Rivas, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

### AB 2957: Wineries and Consumer Bottles (As Introduced)

#### **SUMMARY**

AB 2957 allows licensed wineries to refill consumer-provided bottles (growlers) at their winery and tasting room.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created new health and economic challenges for communities across our State. Specifically, our State's wineries are expected to lose an estimated \$2.54 billion in on premise sales, in addition to other net losses. Workers in the wine industry have also taken a significant hit with thousands of workers being laid off, despite being an essential industry.

Many Californians regularly visit local breweries to refill their "growler" with beer. Other countries and States have recent trends or longstanding traditions that allow for the refilling of consumer-provided bottles with wine for evening meals.

The refilling of bottles aligns with other sustainable practices of many vineyards, wineries, and tasting rooms such as composting, recycling, and minimizing waste. In fact, a single wine keg saves 39 bottles. By allowing wineries to refill consumer bottles, AB 2957 limits waste by reducing the amount of bottles needed in the packaging process.

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) administers several licenses for wine regulation. Currently, a winegrower can only fill bottles they own. Existing law prohibits licensed winegrowers from filling or refilling containers supplied by a consumer at any of their properties.

#### **SOLUTION**

The regulations that apply to wineries and breweries differ. Although breweries are allowed to refill bottles owned by consumers, based on a restriction for wineries in Business and Professions Code Section 23390, wineries cannot fill consumer-supplied containers. Adjusting this code would bring greater parity to the marketplace, enabling the resale of wine

in the same manner as beer. Wineries, like breweries, should be able to sell their products under the same rules.

Under AB 2957, the restriction for wineries would be removed, allowing licensed winegrowers to fill consumer-provided bottles at their wineries and tasting rooms.

This restriction has been temporarily lifted by the ABC Director to provide some form of relief to wineries during the current health crisis. AB 2957 seeks to make this form of relief permanent.

This bill not only brings fairness to the market, but also provides a sustainable practice for wineries across the State to implement.

#### **CO-SPONSORS / SUPPORT**

California Association of Winegrape Growers  
Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association

#### **CONTACT**

Julio Mendez Vargas  
Assembly Fellow  
[Julio.MendezVargas@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Julio.MendezVargas@asm.ca.gov) or 916-319-2030

Kim Stemler  
Executive Director  
[Kim@MontereyWines.org](mailto:Kim@MontereyWines.org) or 831-915-6621