



HOUSE BILL 884: Amend Township ABC Elections.

2016-2017 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 30, 2016
Introduced by:	Rep. B. Brown	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Second Edition		

SUMMARY: *House Bill 884 would allow for elections on malt beverages, unfortified wine, and mixed beverages in certain townships.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H323, as introduced by Reps. B. Brown, S. Martin, Farmer-Butterfield, which is currently in House Appropriations.]

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 18B-600(f) provides for township elections on malt beverages, unfortified wine, ABC stores, and mixed beverages in the following townships:

- Any county where ABC stores have been established by petition pursuant to law
- Any coastal county meeting the specific criteria set out in the statute.

Additionally, in qualified townships, elections may be held on malt beverages, unfortified wine, and mixed beverages. To qualify, the township must be located within a county where the population of all cities in the county that have previously approved the sale of any kind of alcoholic beverages comprise more than 20% of the total county population as of the most recent federal census.

For any of the elections, the township lines are those used in the 2000 Census, and the election is called for upon request of the county board of commissioners or upon petition of 25% of the registered voters of the township (or in the case of a coastal county, two townships together).

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would allow for a township election on malt beverages, unfortified wine, and mixed beverages to be called in any township meeting all of the following criteria:

- The township is located within a county with only one incorporated municipality with a population of less than 2,500 as of the 2010 federal census and ABC stores have been established pursuant to law in that municipality, but not otherwise established in the county.
- The township is located in a county that is wholly surrounded by other counties of this State and does not share a border with another state.
- Part of the township is located within 1,000 feet of the boundary of a municipality in another county with a population between 35,000 and 45,000 as of the 2010 federal census.

The election would be held upon request of the county board of commissioners or upon petition of 25% of the registered voters of the township.

The township lines are those shown on the 2010 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578