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AB-2069 Sale of soju and shochu. (2023-2024)

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Assembly Bill No. 2069

CHAPTER 306

An act to amend Section 23398.5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to alcoholic beverages.

[Approved by Governor September 20, 2024. Filed with Secretary of State September 20, 2024.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2069, Gallagher. Sale of soju and shochu.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act provides for the issuance of various categories of alcoholic beverage licenses, including the imposition of fees, conditions, and restrictions in connection with the issuance of those licenses. The act provides that any on-sale licensee authorized to sell wine may also sell soju, an imported Korean alcoholic beverage, as specified, and shochu, an imported Japanese alcoholic beverage, as specified.

This bill would provide that any on-sale licensee authorized to sell wine may also sell domestically produced soju and shochu, as specified.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 23398.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

23398.5. Any on-sale license, issued pursuant to this division that authorizes the sale of wine, also authorizes the sale of all of the following:

- (a) Soju, an imported Korean alcoholic beverage that contains not more than 24 percent of alcohol by volume and is derived from agricultural products.
- (b) Shochu, an imported Japanese alcoholic beverage that contains not more than 24 percent of alcohol by volume and is derived from agricultural products.
- (c) Domestically produced soju and shochu, alcoholic beverages that contain not more than 24 percent of alcohol by volume and are derived from agricultural products.