

Bill advances to allow home brewers to serve beer without permit

Written by
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Home beer and alcohol brewers got a lot of love on the floor of the Nebraska Legislature on Tuesday.

A bill (LB235), introduced by Sen. Sue Crawford of Bellevue, would allow home brewers to make and serve their goods at exhibitions, festivals, tastings, competitions, fundraising events or to family and friends without a permit, as long as the alcohol is not being offered for sale. It also must be clearly marked.

Sen. Carol Blood of Bellevue said the bill was not as much about alcohol as entrepreneurship, as many home brewers get their starts in craft brewing at home in their garages, testing it out at shows and events before going on to establish businesses.

The bill, which passed on a 38-0 vote, didn't get unconditional support at its hearing. It was opposed, as could be expected, by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, Associated Beverage Distributors of Nebraska and Project Extra Mile.