

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 2680

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Establishing a caterer's license to sell spirits, beer, and wine.

Sponsors: House Committee on Government Accountability & Oversight (originally sponsored by Representatives Springer, Haler, Goodman and Freeman).

House Committee on Government Accountability & Oversight
Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor

Background:

Washington State Liquor Control Board.

The Liquor Control Board (LCB) is responsible for the overall regulation of the distribution and sale of liquor in this state, including the issuance of liquor licenses to the various categories of businesses authorized to sell or otherwise provide liquor to the public. The regulatory authority of the LCB includes the authority to prescribe:

- the terms and conditions to be contained in permits and licenses and the qualifications for receiving a permit or license;
- the fees payable for any liquor-related permits and licenses for which no fees are prescribed, as well as the fees for anything done or permitted to be done under the regulations adopted by the LCB; and
- the conditions, accommodations, and qualifications requisite to the obtaining of licenses to sell beer, wine, and spirits and regulating the sale of beer, wine, and spirits pursuant to those licenses.

Restaurant Liquor Licenses.

There are various types of liquor licenses, including licenses for restaurants and taverns. Restaurant liquor license fees range from \$200 for wine or beer, or \$400 for both, and up to \$2,000 for certain spirits, beer, and wine licenses. Food service requirements are attached to these restaurant licenses. There is no food requirement attached to a tavern license.

Caterer's Endorsement for a Restaurant Liquor License.

The LCB may issue a caterer's endorsement to a restaurant licensee authorized to sell beer, wine, and spirits. The caterer's endorsement allows the restaurant to remove liquor from the restaurant premises for the sale to, and use by, customers at a catered event taking place on a specified date. If the event is open to the public, it must be sponsored by specified categories

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of nonprofit societies or organizations. If attendance at the event is limited to members or invited guests of the sponsoring individual, society, or organization, the requirement that the sponsor must be a specified type of society or organization is waived. The cost of the restaurant caterer's endorsement is \$350.

The holder of a restaurant license with a catering endorsement must, if requested by the LCB, notify the LCB of the date, time, place, and location of any catered event. Upon request, the licensee must provide to the LCB all necessary or requested information concerning the society or organization that will be holding the function at which the endorsed license will be utilized.

Summary:

The LCB is authorized to issue a caterer's license to sell spirits, beer, and wine by the individual serving at retail value for consumption on the premises at an event location that is either owned, leased, or operated either by the caterer or the sponsor of the event for which catering services are being provided. If the catered event is open to the public, it must be sponsored by a nonprofit society or organization that is operated for charitable, religious, social, political, educational, civic, fraternal, athletic, or benevolent purposes. If attendance at the event is limited to members or invited guests of the sponsoring individual, society, or organization, the requirement that the sponsor must be a specified type of society or organization is waived. The licensee must serve food as required by rules of the LCB.

The annual fee is \$200 for the beer license, \$200 for the wine license, and \$400 for a combination beer and wine license. The annual fee for a combined beer, wine, and spirits license is \$1,000.

The holder of this license must notify the LCB or its designee of the date, time, place, and location of any catered event at which liquor will be served, sold, or consumed.

Employees of a business holding a catering license who are at least 18 years of age may take orders for, serve, and sell liquor in any part of the licensed premises except those areas that are classified as off-limits to persons under 21 years of age (e.g., cocktail lounges, bars).

The licensee is responsible for all sales, service, and consumption of alcohol at the location of the catered event.

Licensees are prohibited from catering events at locations or premises that are already licensed to sell liquor.

The premises where a licensed caterer provides liquor-related catering services are added to the categories of "retail licensed premises" authorized to sell alcohol by the glass, by the drink, or in its original container.

Employees of licensed caterers who prepare, mix, or serve alcohol at catered events are required to have a legal permit authorizing them to do so.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 95 2
Senate 44 4

Effective: June 12, 2014