
HOUSE BILL 1730

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Waters, Stonier, Klicker, Low, Couture, Chambers, Ybarra, Barnard, Schmidt, Street, McClintock, Walen, Hutchins, Caldier, and Cheney

Read first time 02/02/23. Referred to Committee on Regulated Substances & Gaming.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing youth ages 18 and older to work in
2 establishments traditionally classified as off-limits to persons
3 under the age of 21 in certain specific and limited circumstances;
4 amending RCW 66.44.316; creating a new section; and declaring an
5 emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
8 COVID-19 pandemic created extreme labor shortages in certain
9 industries, especially in the food service and hospitality industry.

10 (2) The legislature further finds that establishments
11 traditionally classified as off-limits to persons under the age of 21
12 have experienced even greater labor challenges in occupations that do
13 not involve the serving of alcohol or interacting with patrons, such
14 as dishwashers, sanitation specialists, line cooks, prep cooks, fry
15 cooks, and chefs.

16 (3) The legislature further finds that these occupations are
17 critical entry-level jobs that help youth develop strong skills that
18 translate into success in other workplaces and occupations later in
19 life.

20 (4) Therefore, the legislature intends to allow, under specific
21 and limited circumstances, youth between the ages of 18 to 21 to be

1 employed in establishments traditionally classified as off-limits to
2 persons under the age of 21.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 66.44.316 and 1985 c 323 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) It is lawful for:

6 ~~((1))~~ (a) Professional musicians, professional disc jockeys, or
7 professional sound or lighting technicians actively engaged in
8 support of professional musicians or professional disc jockeys,
9 ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age and older, to enter and to remain in any
10 premises licensed under the provisions of ~~((Title 66 RCW))~~ this
11 title, but only during and in the course of their employment as
12 musicians, disc jockeys, or sound or lighting technicians;

13 ~~((2))~~ (b) Persons ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age and older
14 performing janitorial services to enter and remain on premises
15 licensed under the provisions of ~~((Title 66 RCW))~~ this title when the
16 premises are closed but only during and in the course of their
17 performance of janitorial services;

18 ~~((3))~~ (c) Employees of amusement device companies, which
19 employees are ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age or older, to enter and to
20 remain in any premises licensed under the provisions of ~~((Title 66~~
21 ~~RCW))~~ this title, but only during and in the course of their
22 employment for the purpose of installing, maintaining, repairing, or
23 removing an amusement device. For the purposes of this section
24 amusement device means coin-operated video games, pinball machines,
25 juke boxes, or other similar devices; ~~((and~~

26 ~~((4))~~ (d) Security and law enforcement officers, and firefighters
27 ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age or older to enter and to remain in any
28 premises licensed under ~~((Title 66 RCW))~~ this title, but only during
29 and in the course of their official duties and only if they are not
30 the direct employees of the licensee. However, the application of
31 ~~((the [this]))~~ this subsection to security officers is limited to
32 casual, isolated incidents arising in the course of their duties and
33 does not extend to continuous or frequent entering or remaining in
34 any licensed premises; and

35 (e) Persons 18 years of age and older performing services
36 unrelated to the sale or service of alcohol to enter and remain on
37 premises licensed under this title, but only during and in the course
38 of their employment as a dishwasher, cook, chef, sanitation

1 specialist, or other kitchen staff and only under the following
2 conditions:

3 (i) The individual may not perform any services or work in the
4 bar, lounge, or dining area of the licensed premises;

5 (ii) The individual may not serve food, drinks, or otherwise
6 interact with the patrons of the licensee;

7 (iii) The individual may never be in possession of or consume
8 alcohol at any time; and

9 (iv) The licensee must ensure that a supervisor, who is at least
10 21 years of age, is present at all times that an individual employed
11 under this section is working.

12 (2) This section shall not be construed as permitting the sale or
13 distribution of any alcoholic beverages to any person under the age
14 of ((twenty-one)) 21 years.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
17 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
18 effect immediately.

--- END ---