

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1698

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Labor & Commerce, April 1, 2025

Title: An act relating to updating liquor permit and licensing provisions.

Brief Description: Updating liquor permit and licensing provisions.

Sponsors: Representatives Waters and Reed; by request of Liquor and Cannabis Board.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/4/25, 95-0.

Committee Activity: Labor & Commerce: 3/31/25, 4/01/25 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires all persons selling and serving alcohol for on-premises consumption at a facility that holds a specified liquor license to obtain an alcohol server permit.
- Eliminates a special liquor permit relating to military facilities and the public house liquor license.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Saldaña, Chair; Conway, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Member; Alvarado, Braun, MacEwen, Ramos, Schoesler and Stanford.

Staff: Marlon Llanes (786-7423)

Background: Alcohol Server Permits. An alcohol server permit is required for persons who serve, mix, sell, or handle the sale of alcohol for on-premises consumption. The permit is issued after the successful completion of a mandatory alcohol server training and an examination. A class 12 permit is issued for individuals who are 21 years of age and older.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

A class 13 permit is issued for individuals who are between 18 to 20 years of age. The Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) requires all alcohol servers applying for a class 13 alcohol server permit to watch a specified video training session.

Special Liquor Permit for Military Facilities. LCB issues various special liquor permits that authorize certain activities related to the sale, service, and consumption of alcohol. For example, LCB issues a special liquor permit that authorizes representatives of a military installation operated by any of the armed forces within Washington to purchase liquor for use on the military installation.

Public House Liquor License. A public house license authorizes a licensee to do the following:

- annually manufacture no less than 250 gallons and no more than 2,400 barrels of beer on the licensed premises;
- sell their product at retail for on-premises consumption;
- sell beer and wine not manufactured by the licensee for on-premises consumption if the beer or wine was purchased from a licensed beer or wine wholesaler; and
- apply for and be licensed as a spirits, beer, and wine restaurant at the same location.

Summary of Bill: Alcohol Server Permits. For purposes of laws relating to alcohol servers, a retail licensed premises is now referred to as an on-premises licensed facility. The existing definition of an on-premises licensed facility is modified to include any premises that is issued an annual license to serve alcohol and a premises holding a privilege for on-premises tasting activities. The definition is also expanded to include breweries and microbreweries authorized to serve or sell beer or other liquor, and employees of beer and/or wine specialty shops and spirits retailers whose duties include serving during tasting activities.

A licensee of an on-premises licensed facility may not employ or accept the services of any person whose duties include the compounding, sale, service, or handling of liquor if the person does not have a valid class 12 or class 13 permit.

The requirement for persons applying for a class 13 alcohol server permit to watch a video training session is removed.

Special Liquor Permits for Military Facilities. The special liquor permit authorizing a representative of a military installation operated by any of the armed forces within Washington to purchase liquor for use on the military installation is eliminated.

Public House License. The public house liquor license is eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a technical bill to clarify the responsibilities of alcohol servers and employers. Under current law, there are contradicting provisions related to alcohol server permits. The purpose of the bill is to clarify that servers need a permit when the job entails serving and selling alcohol. The requirement for a permit does not depend on the type of license the facility holds.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Marc Webster, WSLCB.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.