



NOTICE OF RULE MAKING – Pre-proposal #12-20

The Washington State Liquor Control Board has entered into the initial stage of rule making to amend **WAC 314-02-015** – What is a spirits, beer, and wine restaurant license? and **WAC 314-02-045** – What is a beer and wine restaurant license?

The Washington Restaurant Association (WRA) petitioned the board requesting WAC 314-02-015 and WAC 314-02-045 be amended as they relate to the required hours of operation of five hours a day five days a week for a restaurant license. The current rules include language that an exception may be granted by the board for demonstrated hardship.

A request for an exception due to demonstrated hardship was rare until the last few years. Due to the economy, there have been many requests for exceptions to these rules in the last three years. The exception is only granted for a six month period so licensees must request the exception every six months.

WRA submitted proposed language changing the requirement for hours of operation to five hours a day three days a week and remove the exception for demonstrated hardship. This change would allow restaurant businesses the flexibility to operate less than five days a week to ease any financial burdens.

This notice can be found at <http://www.liq.wa.gov/laws/laws-and-rules> under Proposed Rules.

The Liquor Control Board encourages you to give input on these rule. Following the comment period, the agency will send out and publish the proposed revised rules, establish a comment period on the proposed rules, and hold at least one public hearing before the rules are adopted.

Public Comment

Please forward your initial comments to the Liquor Control Board by mail, e-mail, or fax by **December 1, 2012**.

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