



Bill Title: Creating a Spirits/Beer/Wine Theater License
Bill Number: ESSB 5607
Effective Date: July 28, 2013
Amends: Creates a new section in Chapter 66.24 RCW and amends RCW 66.20.300 and RCW 66.20.310 (MAST)

Summary:

New Section in Chapter 66.24 RCW

- A theater beer, wine, and spirits license is created.
- In order to obtain a theater beer, wine, and spirits license from the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB), a theater must have no more than 120 seats per screen, provide tabletop accommodations for in-theater dining, and comply with the same meal preparation and service requirements as restaurant licensees.
- The annual fee is \$2,000 and permits theaters to sell beer, wine, and spirits to be consumed on theater premises.
- An alcohol control plan must be submitted to the WSLCB at the time of application for the license; if minors will ever be present at the theater.
- An applicant for a theater license must submit an alcohol control plan to the WSLCB that shows where alcohol is permitted, where and when minors are permitted, and what measures will be taken to ensure the minors will not be able to get alcohol or will not be exposed to areas where drinking alcohol predominates.
- The WSLCB must adopt rules regarding alcohol control plans.
- Theater is defined as a place of business where motion pictures or other primarily non-participatory forms of entertainment are shown.
- Subject to specified conditions, theater licensees that are federally designated nonprofits exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C 501(c)(3) are permitted to enter into agreements with a liquor industry member for purposes of brand advertising at the theater. Such an agreement is an exception to the general statutory prohibition against a liquor industry member advancing money or other valuable consideration to a retailer. Agreements are subject to a WSLCB audit.
- The maximum for certain penalties for violations involving minors or failure to follow the alcohol control plan are doubled.
- Servers are required to hold a class 12 or class 13 server permit.

How to Apply:

Complete a Master Business Application and Liquor Control Board Addendum. Information can be found on the WSLCB website at www.liq.wa.gov.

When the WSLCB Licensing Division receives the application:

- A liquor license investigator will be assigned to the application.
- A notice will be sent to the local authority for comment (20 day period).
- A public posting notice will be sent to the applicant to be posted at the retail premises (must be posted for 14 days).
- The investigator will contact the applicant to conduct an interview and send the applicant a request for documents needed to process the application (the applicant has 15 days to return documents). The applicant will also be directed to complete a licensee briefing and to call their local liquor agent to schedule a final inspection of the premises.
- When all documents are received, the licensee briefing is complete, the final inspection is complete, and the investigation is complete, the applicant will receive a letter from the WSLCB Licensing Division with either a conditional approval or approval of the liquor license.
- When the license is approved the licensee should receive a Master License from Master License Service within 14 days.

Contact Information:

For specific questions, please contact Customer Service at 360-664-1600 or www.liq.wa.gov.