



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Topic: Petition for Adoption, Amendment, or Repeal of a State Administrative Rule – Permanent Resident Cards as Acceptable Forms of Identification

Date: March 26, 2025

Presented by: Jeff Kildahl, Policy and Rules Coordinator

Background

On February 19, 2025, the Liquor and Cannabis Board (Board) received a rulemaking petition from Mr. Ole Aarup Mikkelsen, a member of the public. The petition request, received in the form of a letter via postal mail, asks the Board to consider amending current regulations to allow Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) to be accepted as a form of identification for the purchase of cannabis and alcohol.

The petitioner's request for rulemaking includes the following:

"I am writing to formally request that the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board consider amending its current regulations to allow Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) as acceptable forms of identification for the purchase of cannabis and alcohol.

Under the current regulations, the acceptable forms of identification include a Driver's License, Instruction Permit, or I.D. Card issued by any U.S. State, U.S. Territory, and the District of Columbia, among others. However, Permanent Resident Cards are not listed as acceptable forms of identification. This exclusion creates unnecessary barriers for lawful permanent residents who are otherwise eligible to purchase these products."

The acceptable forms of identification that alcohol licensees may accept to verify the age of customers for alcohol purchases or consumption are found in [WAC 314-11-025](#). The acceptable forms of identification that cannabis retail licensees may accept to verify the age of customers for cannabis purchases are found in [WAC 314-55-150](#).

The Board is currently engaged in rule development and considering amendments to both WAC 314-11-025 and WAC 314-55-150 regarding acceptable forms of identification. This current rulemaking began on October 9, 2024 under [WSR 24-21-049](#) in response to two rulemaking petitions affecting these two rules. The Board has held stakeholder meetings and is currently developing possible rule amendments to be included in a CR 102 to propose permanent rule changes to these sections.

Issue

Whether the Board should open a rulemaking project to consider amending WAC 314-11-025 and WAC 314-55-150 to allow the United States Permanent Resident Card, or "Green Card" as it is commonly known, to be included as an acceptable form of

identification to verify a person's age for the purposes of purchasing cannabis or alcohol.

Statutes

[RCW 66.44.270\(3\)\(a\)](#) states that it is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 years to possess, consume, or otherwise acquire liquor.

[RCW 69.50.4013\(5\)](#) states that no person under 21 years of age may possess cannabis, cannabis-infused products, or cannabis concentrates, regardless of THC concentration, except for qualifying patients with a valid authorization.

Analysis

The petitioner has requested rule amendments to WAC 314-11-025 and WAC 314-55-150 to add the United States Permanent Resident Card, or “Green Card”, to the acceptable forms of identification for that can be used by customers for the purchase of alcohol or cannabis.

The petitioner states: “Allowing Green Cards as proof of age and identification would not only simplify the process for lawful permanent residents but also ensure that all eligible individuals are treated fairly and equitably. This change would align with the principles of inclusivity and fairness that our state strives to uphold.”

The Board is currently engaged in rule development around Acceptable Forms of Identification and is considering amendments to these very same rules sections under WSR 24-21-049. The Board has held stakeholder meetings and is considering similar rule revisions to these sections, and it is not necessary to initiate another separate rulemaking project as a project is already underway to consider requests to modernize these rules.

Conclusion

Because the Board is currently engaged in rule development and considering amendments to these same two rule sections, WAC 314-11-025 and WAC 314-55-150, it is not necessary to accept a new rulemaking petition. The subject of this petition request is already being considered as a possible proposed addition to these two rules.

Recommendation

For the reasons described above, Director’s Office staff recommend that consistent with RCW 34.05.330(1), the Board deny Mr. Ole Aarup Mikkelsen’s petition for amending of rules submitted on February 19, 2025.

Board Action

After considering the recommendation of Director's Office staff, the Board accepts/denies the petition for rulemaking received from on February 19, 2025.

_____ Accept _____ Deny

Jim Vollendroff, Chair

Date

_____ Accept _____ Deny

Ollie Garrett, Board Member

Date

_____ Accept _____ Deny

Pete Holmes, Board Member

Date

Attachments

1. Email from Mr. Ole Aarup Mikkelsen

Mr. Ole Aarup Mikkelsen
3400 NW Market St #C
Seattle, WA 98107
ole_mikkelsen@mac.com
(206) 910-9840

RECEIVED WA LCB

FEB 19 2025

MAILROOM

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
P.O. Box 43085
Olympia, WA 98504-3085

Monday, February 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board,

I am writing to formally request that the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board consider amending its current regulations to allow Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) as acceptable forms of identification for the purchase of cannabis and alcohol.

Under the current regulations, the acceptable forms of identification include a Driver's License, Instruction Permit, or I.D. Card issued by any U.S. State, U.S. Territory, and the District of Columbia, among others. However, Permanent Resident Cards are not listed as acceptable forms of identification. This exclusion creates unnecessary barriers for lawful permanent residents who are otherwise eligible to purchase these products.

The current law, as outlined on the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board's website, specifies that identification must be valid (not expired) and show the bearer's date of birth, signature, and photograph. However, the requirement for a signature is becoming increasingly outdated for several reasons:

- **Technological Advancements:** With advancements in technology, more secure and reliable methods of identification, such as biometrics and holography, are now available. Green Cards include a fingerprint, which is a unique and more secure form of identification compared to a signature. Unlike signatures, which can be forged or altered, fingerprints provide a foolproof way to verify an individual's identity. Green Cards furthermore include embedded holographic images, making it easy to verify that it is genuine.
- **Digital Security:** Many forms of identification and verification are moving away from signatures in favor of digital and biometric methods. Embracing this trend would align with current best practices in security and identification.
- **Standardization:** Several other forms of modern identification, including passports and certain national identity cards, do not rely on signatures as the primary means

of verification. By accepting Green Cards, which are standardized federal documents, Washington State would be aligning its regulations with broader identification standards.

- **User Convenience:** Federal law requires Green Card holders to always carry their Green Cards on them, unlike other forms of identification. This means lawful permanent residents always have a secure and reliable form of identification with them, making it convenient for both the individuals and the businesses verifying their age.

Allowing Green Cards as proof of age and identification would not only simplify the process for lawful permanent residents but also ensure that all eligible individuals are treated fairly and equitably. This change would align with the principles of inclusivity and fairness that our state strives to uphold.

I respectfully urge the Board to consider this request and take the necessary steps to amend the current regulations to include Permanent Resident Cards as acceptable forms of identification for the purchase of cannabis and alcohol.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



Ole Mikkelsen, Ph.D., PERMANENT RESIDENT