



CR 102 Memorandum

Regarding Seasonal Hours Requirements for Alcohol Licensees

Date: June 18, 2025
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Background

Restaurants in Washington that hold beer or wine licenses, or both, maintain their licenses according to regulations in [WAC 314-02-045](#). This rule section currently requires license holders to be open for business to the public at least five hours a day, three days a week throughout the year.

In December 2024, the Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board (Board) accepted a rulemaking petition to consider allowing seasonal adjustments to the minimum hours and days of operation for beer and wine restaurants.

Many Washington restaurants experience variations in their business due to seasonal fluctuations in the number of part-time residents in their communities, or seasonal fluctuations in the number visitors to their geographical area throughout the year.

Stakeholder Engagement

An informal comment period was held after filing of the CR 101 that was open until June 6, 2025. No public comments were received.

Estimated Costs of Compliance

Under the Regulatory Fairness Act (RFA) in chapter 19.85 RCW, agencies are required to consider the costs that complying with the proposed rules will impose on businesses, unless the proposed rules are subject to an exemption to this requirement. The CR 102 form describes these exemptions in more detail. The proposed rule amendments do not impose any significant regulatory burden on licensees.

Rule Necessity

Reducing the number of days per week that a beer or wine restaurant must open to the public will give these licensees more control of their business operations. This change could help licensees save business resources during slower seasons of the year while maintaining their beer or wine licenses.

Description of Rule Changes

The proposed changes to WAC 314-02-045 do the following:

- Reduce the minimum numbers of days per week that a beer or wine restaurant licensee must be open to the public from three days to two days per week.
- Update the license fee for the restaurant wine license from two hundred dollars to three hundred dollars consistent with [Second Substitute Senate Bill 5786](#) (Chapter 343, Laws of 2025).
- Update license fee for the restaurant beer license from two hundred dollars to three hundred dollars consistent with [Second Substitute Senate Bill 5786](#) (Chapter 343, Laws of 2025).