



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Bill Description: Addressing food service options for liquor licensees.

Bill Number: HB 1602

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Waters

Effective Date: July 27, 2025

Amends: RCW 66.24.240, 66.24.244, 66.24.320, 66.24.410, and 66.04.010; reenacts and amends RCW 66.24.400

Background: Many liquor license types have food service requirements. Microbrewery licenses do not, and thus they do not have to serve food to customers. In many places, food trucks or other restaurants may locate nearby, but they are separate businesses in separate locations. In contrast, beer and wine restaurants and spirits, beer and wine restaurants must sell food. They also have hours of operation rules.

Current rule states that a liquor licensee must have, “exclusive right to the real and personal property,” the business operates in. This has been part of establishing true parties of interest and discouraging hidden ownership. The interpretation of this rule has prevented licensees from contracting part of the establishment to another entity, as it would cede a portion of the “real property.”

Summary

HB 1602 states that a licensed brewery/microbrewery can subcontract with another business or person that does not hold a liquor license to operate a food truck or to operate a kitchen and serve food within the brewery. This bill determined that this type of contract relationship does not constitute ceding control over the real property and is therefore allowable.

The brewery may also qualify for a beer and wine restaurant license or a spirits, beer and wine restaurant and may use a contracted food service provider to meet the food requirements of both of those license types. The contracted kitchen space must be substantially separated from areas where a brewery stores its alcohol.

The bill amends the definition of “restaurant” in RCW 66.24.410 and RCW 66.04.010 to include these contracted relationships between breweries/microbreweries and food service providers.

Finally, the bill specifies that the contracted food service provider is responsible for complying with local health department rules and regulations for food service, hygiene, and food storage.