



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Bill Description: Temporarily waiving license and annual license renewal fees for certain liquor licensees

Bill Number: ESSB 5272

Sponsor: Senator Christine Rolfes

Effective Date: February 28, 2021

Amends: RCW 66.24.140, RCW 66.24.146, RCW 66.24.170, RCW 66.24.240, RCW 66.24.244, RCW 66.24.320, RCW 66.24.330, RCW 66.24.350, RCW 66.24.420, RCW 66.24.495, RCW 66.24.540, RCW 66.24.570, RCW 66.24.580, RCW 66.24.590, RCW 66.24.600, RCW 66.24.650, RCW 66.24.655, RCW 66.24.680, and RCW 66.24.690

Background

Measures taken to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic jolted the economy in Washington and beyond. Many businesses, including LCB licensed businesses were required to close temporarily, and others forced to limit operations in a variety of ways. These businesses, their employees, and the communities in which they operate sought assistance from state agencies in hopes of finding help to survive financially and position themselves for recovery. Because state license fees can cost as much as \$2,500 annually, the bill allows a one-time waiver to support businesses operating at edge of viability.

Bill Summary

Liquor license fees are waived for a 12-month period for specific types of licenses (listed below). The waiver period began on April 1, 2021 (the second calendar month after the effective date of the Act – which was signed by the Governor on February 28 and with an emergency clause, went into effect immediately).

Types of liquor licenses which qualify for the one-time waiver of their annual fee include:

- Distillers, craft distillers, and their tasting room
- Domestic wineries
- Domestic breweries
- Microbreweries
- Beer/wine restaurant
- Tavern
- Snack bar
- Spirits/beer/wine restaurant
- Nonprofit arts
- Motel
- Sports entertainment facility
- Public house
- Hotel
- Spirits/beer/wine nightclub;
- Beer/wine theater
- Spirits/beer/wine theater
- Caterers
- Senior centers

The waiver is not available to businesses that had their licenses suspended by the LCB for violations of state COVID-19 guidelines, or to businesses that received an order of immediate restraint or citation from the Department of Labor & Industries for violating a governor's

proclamation by allowing or requiring an employee(s) to work when business activity was prohibited or restricted.

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