



## Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

**Bill Description:** Allowing people 18 years of age or older to work in certain 21 year and older establishments.

**Bill Number:** HB 1730

**Sponsor:** Rep. Kevin Waters

**Effective Date:** 7/23/23

**Amends:** Amends 66.44.316 RCW

### Background

Current law allows for the limited employment of people between 18 and 21 years old to work in alcohol-licensed businesses, but they cannot work for the licensee directly. Thus, professional musicians, lighting technicians, disc jockeys are allowed to perform in a bar, for example. A licensee could also hire a janitorial or security company that employs someone age 18-20. These exceptions required that the underage person leave as soon as their job or purpose for entering into the licensed premise was over.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the LCB created a [temporary allowance](#) for minor-restricted establishments to directly hire people 18-20 to work in non-alcohol related jobs (washing dishes, cooking, cleaning, for example). The employee could not serve food or alcohol, could not interact with guests, could not possess alcohol at any point, and had to always have a supervisor at least 21 years old present. This temporary allowance expired on September 30, 2022.

### Summary

The bill amends current law to allow people over 18 and under 21 to work in minor-restricted businesses under the same conditions in the temporary allowance. The liquor license may directly employ people 18-20 years old to perform job duties unrelated to alcohol, so long as they have a supervisor present, do not interact with guests, and never possess alcohol.

###