



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

**Bill Description:** Concerning liquor license privileges for the delivery of alcohol

**Bill Number:** SSB 5448

**Sponsor:** Senator Drew MacEwan

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2023

**Amends:** RCW 66.20.320, 66.24.660; Amends 2021 c 48 s 2 (uncodified); 66.04.0101 66.20.310; and creates a new section

## Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Liquor and Cannabis Board made several allowances to licensees struggling during and immediately after business closures and restrictions. In 2021, the Legislature codified these allowances as temporary privileges in HB 1480. The privileges enabled restaurants and bars to provide alcoholic drinks to customers at curbside, takeout, or by delivery to customers either with their own delivery drivers or through third-party services like Uber Eats or Doordash. They were also allowed to sell premixed cocktail kits, also for curbside, takeout, or delivery.

These privileges were allowed for the license types below:

- beer and wine restaurants;
- spirits, beer, and wine restaurants;
- taverns;
- domestic wineries;
- domestic breweries and microbreweries;
- distilleries;
- snack bars;
- nonprofit arts licensees; and
- caterers.

## Summary

SSB 5448 makes permanent some of the 1480 privileges, while allowing others to expire. The privileges for curbside sales of alcohol and the sale of cocktail kits with mini bottles of spirits expire and were discontinued. The privileges allowing for takeout sales of growlers and for outdoor service from on-premises licensees were made permanent.

Finally, the privilege for alcohol delivery is extended to July 1, 2025, and restricts the deliveries to employees of the licensee only. This category covers growlers, cocktails, wine, and beer, and impacts several types of restaurant, wineries, breweries, and distilleries (grocery stores are not impacted). For all deliveries, the signature of a person over 21 years old who receives the order

must be obtained by the delivery driver. This provision includes beer and wine restaurants, who had been able to use third-party delivery services prior to the pandemic.

The LCB is tasked with reporting to the Legislature and Governor by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, on recommendations for alcohol delivery policies, including recommendations on a consistent structure for delivery licenses, endorsements, and fees. It must also include a comprehensive plan to ensure compliance and prevent underage sales of alcohol via deliveries.

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