

Bill Description: Establishing civil penalties for the unlawful sale or supply of alcohol to minors

Bill Number: HB 2260

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Waters

Effective Date: 6/6/2024

Amends: Amends 66.44.270, and creates a new section

Background

RCW 66.44.270 makes it a gross misdemeanor to sell or in any way provide alcohol to a minor. This is similar to laws that prohibit, for example, selling tobacco products to a minor, as in RCW 26.28.080, where the penalty is also a gross misdemeanor. Separate from these statutes, other laws create administrative or civil penalties for these types of sales to minors. In the case of selling tobacco to minors, for example, these penalties are described in RCW 70.155.100. For restaurant or bar servers who sell alcohol to minors, these penalties are included in the Mandatory Alcohol Server Training permit laws.

Summary

HB 2260, an agency request bill from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) creates a schedule of fines for store clerks who sell alcohol to minors. An LCB Enforcement Officer who observes a sale to a minor will give the clerk these penalties instead of issuing a criminal citation.