

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1902

C 252 L 17
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Modifying tavern license provisions.

Sponsors: House Committee on Commerce & Gaming (originally sponsored by Representatives Kirby, Vick and Doglio).

House Committee on Commerce & Gaming
Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor & Sports

Background:

Tavern Licensees.

The Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) is authorized to issue a tavern license that allows the licensee to sell beer and wine at retail for consumption on the premises. Tavern customers must be 21 years of age or older. The annual fee schedule for a tavern is as follows: (1) \$200 for the beer license; and (2) \$200 for the wine license.

Definition of "Society or Organization".

Under the liquor licensing statutes, the term "society or organization" means a nonprofit group organized and operated: (1) solely for charitable, religious, social, political, educational, civic, fraternal, athletic, or benevolent purposes; or (2) a local wine industry association registered under specific provisions of the federal Internal Revenue Code.

Summary:

Caterer's Endorsement: General Provisions.

The LCB is authorized to issue a caterer's endorsement (endorsement) to a tavern licensee (licensee) allowing the licensee to sell and serve liquors taken from its own stocks at specified locations other than the licensed premises of the tavern. Except for specified events held on the premises of a domestic winery, the events must take place at a location not otherwise licensed for the sale or service of liquor. The fee for the endorsement is \$350.

A licensee with the endorsement is subject to the following provisions and requirements with respect to providing service at catered events:

- If the event is open to the public, it must be sponsored by a "society or organization" as defined in the LCB regulatory statutes.

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- If attendance at the event is limited to members or invited guests of the sponsoring individual, society, or organization, the requirement that the sponsor must be the specific type of "society or organization" defined in statute is waived.
- Upon request by the LCB, the licensee must notify the board of the date, time, place, and location of any catered event, as well as information about the society or organization sponsoring the event.
- Persons serving liquor at a catered event must be employees of the licensee and must possess an alcohol server permit.

Catering at Domestic Winery Events.

The catering of an event at a domestic winery is subject to the following conditions and requirements:

- Agreements between the domestic winery and the licensee must be in writing, contain no exclusivity clauses regarding the alcoholic beverages to be served, and be filed with the LCB.
- The domestic winery and the retail licensee may be separately contracted and compensated by the persons sponsoring the event for their respective services.

Liquor Storage Provisions.

A licensee with the endorsement may store liquor on the premises of another party or entity not holding a liquor license, but subject to the following provisions and requirements:

- There must be a written agreement between the licensee and the other party to provide for ongoing catering services.
- The agreement must contain no exclusivity clauses regarding the alcoholic beverages to be served.
- The agreement between the parties must be filed with the LCB.

A licensee with the endorsement may store liquor on one or more other premises operated by the licensee so long as the other premises are owned or controlled under a leasehold interest by that licensee. A duplicate license may be issued for each additional location. A license fee of \$20 is required for such duplicate licenses.

The LCB may promulgate rules establishing conditions for off-premises liquor storage.

Furnishing of Beer or Wine to Tavern Employees.

A licensee, or its manager, may furnish beer or wine to the licensee's employees free of charge for use in connection with instruction on beer and wine. The instruction may include the history, nature, values, and characteristics of beer or wine, the use of wine lists, and the methods of presenting, serving, storing, and handling beer or wine.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	95	2	
Senate	38	10	(Senate amended)
Senate	41	8	(House concurred)

Effective: July 23, 2017