

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5643

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As of August 31, 2020

**Title:** An act relating to theater licenses.

**Brief Description:** Modifying theater license provisions.

**Sponsors:** Senators King, Palumbo, Honeyford, Keiser, Walsh, Saldaña and Nguyen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor & Commerce: 2/18/19.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the limit on the number of seats allowed and the tabletop dining requirement for certain spirits, beer, and wine theater licensees, under specified conditions.
- Removes the maximum four screen limitation on the beer and/or wine theater license.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

**Staff:** Richard Rodger (786-7461)

**Background:** Certain theaters are authorized to obtain a license allowing the theater to sell spirits, beer, and wine at retail for on-premise consumption. To be eligible for a spirits, beer, and wine theater license, the theater must:

- have no more than 120 seats per screen;
- prepare, cook, and serve complete meals; and
- provide tabletop accommodations for in-theater dining.

Certain theaters are authorized to obtain a license allowing the theater to sell beer, strong beer, and wine at retail for on-premise consumption. To be eligible for this theater license, the theater may not have more than four movie screens.

If minors are allowed in the theater, the theater must submit an alcohol control plan to the Liquor and Cannabis Board for approval. Any person serving alcohol must have completed a mandatory alcohol server training program. The maximum fines and suspensions for violations involving minors or failure to follow an alcohol control plan are doubled for

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theaters.

**Summary of Bill:** The criteria for issuing a spirits, beer, and wine theater license is revised to remove the requirements for 120 seats or fewer and tabletop dining requirements, under specified conditions. The conditions include:

- distinctive glassware;
- limits on the size of the glassware;
- drinks containing not more than three ounces of spirits, which must be one hundred proof or less;
- a separate bar and lounge area;
- a prohibition on temporary service locations;
- a prohibition on promotions that encourage intoxication or drinking contests;
- required age verification at the time of ordering; and
- training requirements for all managers and staff who interact with guests.

Theaters with no more than four screens and tabletop accommodations for in-theater dining are not required to have a separate bar and lounge area and may provide service from temporary locations.

The theater license authorizing the sale of beer, strong beer, and wine is no longer limited to theaters with up to four screens.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.