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**HOUSE BILL 2842**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Steele, Boehnke, and Chambers

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Gaming.

1 AN ACT Relating to nonprofit special occasion liquor licensee  
2 compliance with laws administered by the liquor and cannabis board;  
3 amending RCW 66.24.380; creating a new section; and prescribing  
4 penalties.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the value of  
7 the special occasion liquor license to nonprofit organizations who  
8 organize and host community events that include as one component,  
9 responsible service and consumption of alcoholic beverages. These  
10 community events can be substantial endeavors to plan, finance, and  
11 host for a nonprofit organization, and so ensuring the organization  
12 stays in compliance with applicable laws and rules is a top priority.  
13 Nevertheless, it is understandable that inadvertent regulatory  
14 violations may nevertheless occur from time to time despite due  
15 diligence. It is the legislature's intent that special occasion  
16 licensees, who lack a willful intent to violate laws or rules, be  
17 provided when appropriate with warnings, technical assistance, and  
18 then reasonable civil penalties, without risk of losing the ability  
19 to continue operating under the license.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 66.24.380 and 2016 c 235 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       There is a retailer's license to be designated as a special  
4 occasion license to be issued to a not-for-profit society or  
5 organization to sell spirits, beer, and wine by the individual  
6 serving for on-premises consumption at a specified event, such as at  
7 picnics or other special occasions, at a specified date and place;  
8 fee sixty dollars per day.

9       (1) The not-for-profit society or organization is limited to  
10 sales of no more than twelve calendar days per year. For the purposes  
11 of this subsection, special occasion licensees that are "agricultural  
12 area fairs" or "agricultural county, district, and area fairs," as  
13 defined by RCW 15.76.120, that receive a special occasion license  
14 may, once per calendar year, count as one event fairs that last  
15 multiple days, so long as alcohol sales are at set dates, times, and  
16 locations, and the board receives prior notification of the dates,  
17 times, and locations. The special occasion license applicant will pay  
18 the sixty dollars per day for this event.

19       (2) The licensee may sell spirits, beer, and/or wine in original,  
20 unopened containers for off-premises consumption if permission is  
21 obtained from the board prior to the event.

22       (3) In addition to offering the sale of wine by the individual  
23 serving for on-premises consumption, the licensee may sell wine in  
24 original, unopened containers for on-premises consumption if  
25 permission is obtained from the board prior to the event.

26       (4) Sale, service, and consumption of spirits, beer, and wine is  
27 to be confined to specified premises or designated areas only.

28       (5) Liquor sold under this special occasion license must be  
29 purchased from a licensee of the board.

30       (6) (a) Any violation of this section is punishable as provided in  
31 this subsection (6):

32       (i) The board and its enforcement officers shall issue a warning  
33 for any violation or violations of this section when it appears the  
34 violation was not intentional or reckless and that issuing a warning  
35 and, if appropriate, providing any technical assistance, seems  
36 reasonably likely to result in future compliance.

37       (ii) When a violation does not result in a warning as provided in  
38 (a)(i) of this subsection, then the violation and subsequent  
39 violations for which a warning is not provided are punishable as a

1 class 1 civil infraction having a maximum penalty of two hundred  
2 fifty dollars as provided for in chapter 7.80 RCW.  
3 (b) The board may not suspend or revoke a special occasion  
4 license unless there is a record of repeated violations justifying,  
5 from a public safety perspective based on the specific types of  
6 violations, prohibiting the licensee from continuing to operate. In  
7 the extreme case of license revocation, the former licensee may  
8 reapply for a special occasion license after the expiration of a  
9 period of time set by the board not to exceed four years from the  
10 date of license revocation.

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