

RCW 70.155.100 Penalties, sanctions, and actions against licensees. (1) The liquor and cannabis board may suspend or revoke a retailer's license issued under RCW 82.24.510(1)(b) or 82.26.150(1)(b) held by a business at any location, or may impose a monetary penalty as set forth in subsection (3) of this section, if the liquor and cannabis board finds that the licensee has violated RCW 26.28.080, 70.155.020, 70.155.030, 70.155.040, 70.155.050, 70.155.070, or 70.155.090.

(2) Any retailer's licenses issued under RCW 70.345.020 to a person whose license or licenses under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW have been suspended or revoked for violating RCW 26.28.080 must also be suspended or revoked during the period of suspension or revocation under this section.

(3) The sanctions that the liquor and cannabis board may impose against a person licensed under RCW 82.24.530 or 82.26.170 based upon one or more findings under subsection (1) of this section may not exceed the following:

(a) For violations of RCW 70.155.020 or 21 C.F.R. Sec. 1140.14, and for violations of RCW 70.155.040 occurring on the licensed premises:

(i) A monetary penalty of \$200 for the first violation within any three-year period;

(ii) A monetary penalty of \$600 for the second violation within any three-year period;

(iii) A monetary penalty of \$2,000 and suspension of the license for a period of six months for the third violation within any three-year period;

(iv) A monetary penalty of \$3,000 and suspension of the license for a period of 12 months for the fourth violation within any three-year period;

(v) Revocation of the license with no possibility of reinstatement for a period of five years for the fifth or more violation within any three-year period;

(b) For violations of RCW 26.28.080:

(i) A monetary penalty of \$1,000 for the first violation within any three-year period;

(ii) A monetary penalty of \$2,500 for the second violation within any three-year period;

(iii) A monetary penalty of \$5,000 and suspension of the license for a period of six months for the third violation within any three-year period;

(iv) A monetary penalty of \$10,000 and suspension of the license for a period of 12 months for the fourth violation within any three-year period;

(v) Revocation of the license with no possibility of reinstatement for a period of five years for the fifth or more violation within any three-year period;

(c) If the board finds that a person licensed under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW and RCW 70.345.020 has violated RCW 26.28.080, each subsequent violation of either of the person's licenses counts as an additional violation within that three-year period;

(d) For violations of RCW 70.155.030, a monetary penalty in the amount of \$100 for each day upon which such violation occurred;

(e) For violations of RCW 70.155.050, a monetary penalty in the amount of \$600 for each violation;

(f) For violations of RCW 70.155.070, a monetary penalty in the amount of \$2,000 for each violation.

(4) The liquor and cannabis board may impose a monetary penalty upon any person other than a licensed cigarette or tobacco product retailer if the liquor and cannabis board finds that the person has violated RCW 26.28.080, 70.155.020, 70.155.030, 70.155.040, 70.155.050, 70.155.070, or 70.155.090.

(5) The monetary penalty that the liquor and cannabis board may impose based upon one or more findings under subsection (4) of this section may not exceed the following:

(a) For violation of RCW 26.28.080 or 70.155.020, \$100 for the first violation and \$200 for each subsequent violation;

(b) For violations of RCW 70.155.030, \$200 for each day upon which such violation occurred;

(c) For violations of RCW 70.155.040, \$200 for each violation;

(d) For violations of RCW 70.155.050, \$600 for each violation;

(e) For violations of RCW 70.155.070, \$2,000 for each violation.

(6) The liquor and cannabis board may develop and offer a class for retail clerks and use this class in lieu of a monetary penalty for the clerk's first violation.

(7) The liquor and cannabis board may issue a cease and desist order to any person who is found by the liquor and cannabis board to have violated or intending to violate the provisions of this chapter, RCW 26.28.080, 82.24.500, or 82.26.190 requiring such person to cease specified conduct that is in violation. The issuance of a cease and desist order does not preclude the imposition of other sanctions authorized by this statute or any other provision of law.

(8) The liquor and cannabis board may seek injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of RCW 26.28.080, 82.24.500, 82.26.190 or this chapter. The liquor and cannabis board may initiate legal action to collect civil penalties imposed under this chapter if the same have not been paid within thirty days after imposition of such penalties. In any action filed by the liquor and cannabis board under this chapter, the court may, in addition to any other relief, award the liquor and cannabis board reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(9) All proceedings under subsections (1) through (7) of this section shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(10) The liquor and cannabis board may reduce or waive either the penalties or the suspension or revocation of a license, or both, as set forth in this chapter where the elements of proof are inadequate or where there are mitigating circumstances. Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, an exercise of due diligence by a retailer. Further, the board may exceed penalties set forth in this chapter based on aggravating circumstances. [2023 c 398 s 4; 2016 sp.s. c 38 s 23; 2006 c 14 s 5; 1998 c 133 s 3; 1993 c 507 s 11.]

Reviser's note: In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

Findings—Enforcement—2023 c 398: See notes following RCW 70.155.080.

Finding—Intent—2006 c 14: See note following RCW 70.155.050.

Finding—Intent—1998 c 133: See note following RCW 70.155.080.