



Liquor

During the 2017 legislative session, the General Assembly considered measures related to the cleanup of *Senate Bill 16-197*, liquor licensees' operations, wine, and higher education campuses.

Cleanup of Senate Bill 16-197

SB 16-197 was passed during the 2016 legislative session. The bill made several changes to state laws related to the licensing of liquor-licensed drugstores and retail liquor stores, including expanding the number of licenses that may be obtained after specific requirements are met.

Following the passage of SB 16-197, the General Assembly considered several pieces of cleanup legislation during the 2017 legislative session. The largest of these was *Senate Bill 17-143*, which was lost in the Senate on third reading. Several pieces of legislation were later introduced that addressed various issues in SB 17-143.

Under state law, establishments that are licensed to sell beer, wine, or spirits are prohibited from having an ATM from which individuals enrolled in public assistance programs may obtain cash benefits through the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program. *House Bill 17-1365* exempted liquor-licensed drugstores from this prohibition.

SB 16-197 prohibited a liquor-licensed tavern or lodging and entertainment facility from permitting an employee who is under 21 years

of age to sell alcohol. *Senate Bill 17-237* allows employees who are under 21 years of age to sell alcohol in licensed taverns and lodging and entertainment facilities that regularly serve meals.

SB 16-197 changed state law to allow retail liquor stores to sell additional nonalcohol products as long as the annual gross revenues from the sale of these products does not exceed 20 percent of the store's total annual gross revenues. *Senate Bill 17-269* excluded revenues from the sale of lottery products, cigarettes, tobacco products, nicotine products, ice, soft drinks, mixers, and nonfood items related to the consumption of alcohol from the 20 percent limit.

House Bill 17-1370, *Senate Bill 17-195*, and *Senate Bill 17-199* would have increased the number of licenses available to retail liquor stores from the number included in SB 16-197. All three bills were postponed indefinitely.

Liquor Licensees' Operations

Under prior law, only a hotel and restaurant licensee, tavern licensee, or lodging and entertainment licensee, or the licensee's registered manager, was allowed to purchase alcohol beverages for the licensed premises. *Senate Bill 17-058* allows an employee or agent of these licensees to also purchase alcohol beverages for the licensed premises.

Senate Bill 17-134 made several changes to state law related to fines and suspensions of

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licensees that operate a sales room or retail establishment in addition to either manufacturing or wholesaling activities. If any of these licensees violate the prohibition on serving to a person under 21 years of age or someone visibly intoxicated, the fine or suspension must be solely related to the operations of the sales room or retail establishment and not include or extend to the manufacturing or wholesaling activities of the licensee.

Under current law, it is illegal for an establishment licensed to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption to sell, serve, or distribute alcohol between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. *House Bill 17-1123*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have allowed a local government to extend these hours at licensed establishments within its jurisdiction.

Wine

The purpose of the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board in the Department of Agriculture is to encourage and promote the Colorado wine industry. Under prior law, members of the board were not permitted to serve more than one four-year term. *House Bill 17-1189* changed this so that board members may serve up to two consecutive four-year terms and may continue to serve after the end of their final term until a successor is appointed.

Senate Bill 17-077 allows the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, or state or local agencies that have a statutory mandate to promote alcohol beverages in Colorado or to promote tourism in an area of the state that manufactures alcohol beverages, to apply for a special event permit. Special event permits allow for the sale of alcohol beverages at a specific location during specific hours.

Under current law, amateur brewers and winemakers are exempt from liquor licensing requirements. Additionally, amateur brewers may participate in organized events, such as contests, tastings, or judgments, that are held at liquor-licensed premises, as long as the

portions do not exceed six ounces and are not sold, offered for sale, or made available for consumption by the general public. *House Bill 17-1145* extended these provisions of law to amateur winemakers.

House Bill 17-1084 would have allowed hotels with a valid hotel and restaurant liquor license to sell sealed bottles of wine in their restaurant for consumption on or off the premises by obtaining a wine-expanded permit. Similarly, *House Bill 17-1335* would have allowed certain liquor-licensed establishments to allow customers to take with them one sealed container of wine. Both bills were postponed indefinitely.

Higher Education Campuses

House Bill 17-1120 created a campus liquor complex designation that allows liquor-licensed institutions of higher education to designate multiple facilities on the campus as locations for serving alcohol for on-premises consumption.