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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 228**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING LIQUOR PERMITS AND TOBACCO BARS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows more tobacco bars to permit certain smoking indoors, including cigars, e-cigarettes, and an electronic cannabis delivery system, but not cigarettes.

Under current law, tobacco bars may do so if they, among other requirements, began operating between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2022, and are located in a municipality with at least 80,000 people and no other tobacco bar. The bill allows for more tobacco bars to allow these things by extending the eligible starting operating period to December 31, 2025, and lowers the population threshold to 40,000.

As under existing law, a tobacco bar must:

1. hold an alcoholic liquor cafe permit;
2. generate at least 60% of their total annual gross sales from tobacco products (cigars and pipe tobacco) as annually determined by an independent certified public accountant;
3. not allow cigarettes or cigarette tobacco on the premises;
4. have a walk-in humidor as a built-in feature onsite;
5. be in a building that (a) no other owner-occupant, lessee, or tenant has a right to possess or (b) uses the tobacco bar's own heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system to prevent the commingling of air;
6. be in premises equipped with a ventilation system that (a) provides local mechanical exhaust with no recirculation, (b) circulates at least 60 cubic feet of outdoor air per person per

minute to provide adequate indoor air quality, and (c) satisfies the requirements established in ANSI/ASHRAE 62-2001, “ventilation for acceptable indoor air quality”; and

7. provide health coverage to the tobacco bar’s employees and their dependents under the federal Affordable Care Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)