
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 230

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LIQUOR CONTROL.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to the Liquor Control Act. Specifically, it:

1. requires alcoholic liquor permittees or backers who get an age statement form from a customer whose age is in question to have acted reasonably in serving or providing alcohol to them in order to not be liable for serving a minor;
2. generally requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to refuse an alcoholic liquor permit to anyone under age 21 as a backer (for example, a business owner);
3. defines "retailer" for the purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits;
4. limits the requirement that alcoholic liquor permit applicants include in their applications a detailed description of their live entertainment to only those applying for permits for on-premises serving or consumption; and
5. makes a clarifying change to the requirement that alcoholic liquor permittees trying to amend the entertainment they have follow specified placarding (signage) requirements.

The bill makes various other minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on live entertainment and placarding are effective July 1, 2026.

AGE STATEMENT RELIEVING PERMITTEE OF CERTAIN LIABILITY FORM

By law, if alcoholic liquor permittees are unsure of a person's age, they must have the person fill out and sign an age statement form in which the customer states that he or she (1) is over age 21, (2) knows that the law prohibits alcohol sales to someone younger, and (3) knows the penalty for willfully misrepresenting their age. Getting this form relieves the permittee of liability for serving to a minor if the permittee is later charged with that and (1) introduces the statement in the proceedings and (2) shows that the proof of age evidence they were given would convince a reasonable person of the purchaser's age.

The bill additionally requires the permittee or backer to have acted reasonably otherwise in serving or providing alcohol to the minor to have this relief from liability.

The bill also requires the statement the person fills out to include the city and state where the person was born.

MINORS AS BACKERS

Current law requires DCP to refuse to issue an alcoholic liquor permit to minors (anyone under age 21), among others. The bill expands this prohibition to also include any minor as a member, principal, or partner of a backer, but it allows permits to be issued to a trust with a minor as a named beneficiary.

OUT-OF-STATE SHIPPERS' PERMITS

The bill defines "retailer" for purposes of certain out-of-state shippers' permits as any business entity that (1) primarily sells alcoholic liquor in sealed bottles or other containers for off-premises consumption and (2) holds a retailer permit issued by the alcohol beverage authority in its home state.

Existing law allows (1) certain wine makers that produce less than 100,000 gallons of wine per year to get out-of-state winery shippers' permits to sell and ship to retailers (in original sealed containers of up to 15 gallons each) wine they make ; and (2) retailers to get an out-of-

state retailer shipper's permit for wine to sell and ship directly to a Connecticut consumer, with various requirements (for example, certain labeling and age verification requirements and shipment limits). Presumably, the definition of "retailer" only applies to the second permit and not the first.

PLACARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LIQUOR PERMITTEES

Current law requires alcoholic liquor permittees seeking to amend the entertainment type they provide to follow the same placarding requirements that apply to applicants for certain liquor permits. The bill makes a clarifying change that this placarding requirement only applies to permittees seeking to amend the live entertainment they provide. As under existing law, this filing or request requires municipal zoning approval.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)