

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1204

Introduced by Briese, 41.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: General Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act; to amend
2 sections 53-101, 53-123.12, 53-124.12, 53-131.01, 53-132, 53-135,
3 53-148.01, and 53-180.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to
4 change provisions relating to application forms and delivery methods
5 for licenses and warning signs; to harmonize provisions; and to
6 repeal the original sections.
7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 53-101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 53-101 Sections 53-101 to 53-1,122 and section 2 of this act shall
4 be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Liquor Control Act.

5 Sec. 2. When delivering any type of license under the Nebraska
6 Liquor Control Act to a licensee, the commission may use mail or
7 electronic delivery.

8 Sec. 3. Section 53-123.12, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
9 amended to read:

10 53-123.12 (1) Any person desiring to obtain a new license to operate
11 a farm winery shall:

12 (a) File an application with the commission ~~in triplicate original~~
13 upon such forms as the commission from time to time prescribes;

14 (b) Pay the license fee to the commission under sections 53-124 and
15 53-124.01, which fee shall be returned to the applicant if the
16 application is denied; and

17 (c) Pay the nonrefundable application fee to the commission in the
18 sum of four hundred dollars.

19 (2) To renew a farm winery license, a farm winery licensee shall
20 file an application with the commission, pay the license fee under
21 sections 53-124 and 53-124.01, and pay the renewal fee of forty-five
22 dollars.

23 (3) License fees, application fees, and renewal fees may be paid to
24 the commission by certified or cashier's check of a bank within this
25 state, personal or business check, United States post office money order,
26 or cash in the full amount of such fees.

27 (4) For a new license, the commission shall then notify the
28 municipal clerk of the city or incorporated village where such license is
29 sought or, if the license is not sought within a city or incorporated
30 village, the county clerk of the county where such license is sought of
31 the receipt of the application and shall include with such notice one

1 copy of the application. No such license shall then be issued by the
2 commission until the expiration of at least forty-five days from the date
3 of receipt by mail or electronic delivery of such application from the
4 commission. Within thirty-five days from the date of receipt of such
5 application from the commission, the local governing bodies of nearby
6 cities or villages or the county may make and submit to the commission
7 recommendations relative to the granting of or refusal to grant such
8 license to the applicant.

9 (5)(a) A farm winery licensee may apply to the local governing body
10 for a temporary expansion of the licensed premises to an immediately
11 adjacent area owned or leased by the licensee or to an immediately
12 adjacent street, parking lot, or alley, not to exceed fifty days for
13 calendar year 2020 and, for each calendar year thereafter, not to exceed
14 fifteen days per calendar year. The temporary area shall comply with the
15 Nebraska Liquor Control Act for consumption on the premises and shall be
16 subject to the following conditions: (i) The temporary area shall be
17 enclosed during the temporary expansion by a temporary fence or other
18 means approved by the county, city, or village; (ii) the temporary area
19 shall have easily identifiable entrances and exits; and (iii) the
20 licensee shall ensure that the area meets all sanitation requirements for
21 a licensed premises. The local governing body shall electronically notify
22 the commission within five days after the authorization of any temporary
23 expansion pursuant to this subsection.

24 (b) The licensee shall file an application with the local governing
25 body which shall contain (i) the name of the applicant, (ii) the premises
26 for which a temporary expansion is requested, identified by street and
27 number if practicable and, if not, by some other appropriate description
28 which definitely locates the premises, (iii) the name of the owner or
29 lessee of the premises for which the temporary expansion is requested,
30 (iv) sufficient evidence that the licensee will carry on the activities
31 and business authorized by the license for himself, herself, or itself

1 and not as the agent of any other person, group, organization, or
2 corporation, for profit or not for profit, (v) a statement of the type of
3 activity to be carried on during the time period for which a temporary
4 expansion is requested, and (vi) sufficient evidence that the temporary
5 expansion will be supervised by persons or managers who are agents of and
6 directly responsible to the licensee.

7 (c) No temporary expansion provided for by this subsection shall be
8 granted without the approval of the local governing body. The local
9 governing body may establish criteria for approving or denying a
10 temporary expansion. The local governing body may designate an agent to
11 determine whether a temporary expansion is to be approved or denied. Such
12 agent shall follow criteria established by the local governing body in
13 making the determination. The determination of the agent shall be
14 considered the determination of the local governing body unless otherwise
15 provided by the local governing body.

16 (d) For purposes of this section, the local governing body shall be
17 that of the city or village within which the premises for which the
18 temporary expansion is requested are located or, if such premises are not
19 within the corporate limits of a city or village, then the local
20 governing body shall be that of the county within which the premises for
21 which the temporary expansion is requested are located.

22 (e) The decision of the local governing body shall be final. If the
23 applicant does not qualify for a temporary expansion, the temporary
24 expansion shall be denied by the local governing body.

25 (f) The city, village, or county clerk shall deliver confirmation of
26 the temporary expansion to the licensee upon receipt of any fee or tax
27 imposed by such city, village, or county.

28 Sec. 4. Section 53-124.12, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 53-124.12 (1) The holder of a license to sell alcoholic liquor at
31 retail issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124, a craft brewery

1 license, a microdistillery license, a farm winery license, or a
2 manufacturer's license issued under subsection (2) of section 53-123.01
3 may obtain an annual catering license as prescribed in this section. The
4 catering license shall be issued for the same period and may be renewed
5 in the same manner as the retail license, craft brewery license,
6 microdistillery license, farm winery license, or manufacturer's license.

7 (2) Any person desiring to obtain a catering license shall file with
8 the commission:

9 (a) An application ~~in triplicate original~~ upon such forms as the
10 commission prescribes; and

11 (b) A license fee of one hundred dollars payable to the commission,
12 which fee shall be returned to the applicant if the application is
13 denied.

14 (3) When an application for a catering license is filed, the
15 commission shall notify the clerk of the city or incorporated village in
16 which such applicant is located or, if the applicant is not located
17 within a city or incorporated village, the county clerk of the county in
18 which such applicant is located, of the receipt of the application. The
19 commission shall include with such notice one copy of the application by
20 mail or electronic delivery. The local governing body and the commission
21 shall process the application in the same manner as provided in section
22 53-132.

23 (4) The local governing body with respect to catering licensees
24 within its liquor license jurisdiction as provided in subsection (5) of
25 this section may cancel a catering license for cause for the remainder of
26 the period for which such catering license is issued. Any person whose
27 catering license is canceled may appeal to the district court of the
28 county in which the local governing body is located.

29 (5) For purposes of this section, local governing body means (a) the
30 governing body of the city or village in which the catering licensee is
31 located or (b) if such licensee is not located within a city or village,

1 the governing body of the county in which such licensee is located.

2 (6) The local governing body may impose an occupation tax on the
3 business of a catering licensee doing business within the liquor license
4 jurisdiction of the local governing body as provided in subsection (5) of
5 this section. Such tax may not exceed double the license fee to be paid
6 under this section.

7 Sec. 5. Section 53-131.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 53-131.01 (1) The application for a new license shall be submitted
10 upon such forms as the commission may prescribe. Such forms shall contain
11 (a) the name and residence of the applicant and how long he or she has
12 resided within the State of Nebraska, (b) the particular premises for
13 which a license is desired designating the same by street and number if
14 practicable or, if not, by such other description as definitely locates
15 the premises, (c) the name of the owner of the premises upon which the
16 business licensed is to be carried on, (d) a statement that the applicant
17 is a resident of Nebraska and legally able to work in Nebraska, that the
18 applicant and the spouse of the applicant are not less than twenty-one
19 years of age, and that such applicant has never been convicted of or
20 pleaded guilty to a felony or been adjudged guilty of violating the laws
21 governing the sale of alcoholic liquor or the law for the prevention of
22 gambling in the State of Nebraska, except that a manager for a
23 corporation applying for a license shall qualify with all provisions of
24 this subdivision as though the manager were the applicant, except that
25 the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the spouse of a
26 manager-applicant, (e) a statement that the applicant intends to carry on
27 the business authorized by the license for himself or herself and not as
28 the agent of any other persons and that if licensed he or she will carry
29 on such business for himself or herself and not as the agent for any
30 other person, (f) a statement that the applicant intends to superintend
31 in person the management of the business licensed and that if so licensed

1 he or she will superintend in person the management of the business, and
2 (g) such other information as the commission may from time to time
3 direct. The applicant shall also submit two legible sets of fingerprints
4 to be furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the
5 Nebraska State Patrol for a national criminal history record check and
6 the fee for such record check payable to the patrol.

7 ~~(2) The application shall be verified by the affidavit of the~~
8 ~~petitioner made before a notary public or other person duly authorized by~~
9 ~~law to administer oaths.~~ If any false statement is made in any part of
10 such application, the applicant or applicants shall be deemed guilty of
11 perjury, and upon conviction thereof the license shall be revoked and the
12 applicant subjected to the penalties provided by law for that crime.

13 Sec. 6. Section 53-132, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 53-132 (1) If no hearing is required pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)
16 or (b) of section 53-133 and the commission has no objections pursuant to
17 subdivision (1)(c) of such section, the commission may waive the forty-
18 five-day objection period and, if not otherwise prohibited by law, cause
19 a retail license, bottle club license, craft brewery license, or
20 microdistillery license to be signed by its chairperson, attested by its
21 executive director over the seal of the commission, and issued in the
22 manner provided in subsection (4) of this section as a matter of course.

23 (2) A retail license, bottle club license, craft brewery license, or
24 microdistillery license may be issued to any qualified applicant if the
25 commission finds that (a) the applicant is fit, willing, and able to
26 properly provide the service proposed within the city, village, or county
27 where the premises described in the application are located, (b) the
28 applicant can conform to all provisions and requirements of and rules and
29 regulations adopted pursuant to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, (c) the
30 applicant has demonstrated that the type of management and control to be
31 exercised over the premises described in the application will be

1 sufficient to insure that the licensed business can conform to all
2 provisions and requirements of and rules and regulations adopted pursuant
3 to the act, and (d) the issuance of the license is or will be required by
4 the present or future public convenience and necessity.

5 (3) In making its determination pursuant to subsection (2) of this
6 section the commission shall consider:

7 (a) The recommendation of the local governing body;

8 (b) The existence of a citizens' protest made in accordance with
9 section 53-133;

10 (c) The existing population of the city, village, or county and its
11 projected growth;

12 (d) The nature of the neighborhood or community of the location of
13 the proposed licensed premises;

14 (e) The existence or absence of other retail licenses, bottle club
15 licenses, craft brewery licenses, or microdistillery licenses with
16 similar privileges within the neighborhood or community of the location
17 of the proposed licensed premises and whether, as evidenced by
18 substantive, corroborative documentation, the issuance of such license
19 would result in or add to an undue concentration of licenses with similar
20 privileges and, as a result, require the use of additional law
21 enforcement resources;

22 (f) The existing motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow in the
23 vicinity of the proposed licensed premises;

24 (g) The adequacy of existing law enforcement;

25 (h) Zoning restrictions;

26 (i) The sanitation or sanitary conditions on or about the proposed
27 licensed premises; and

28 (j) Whether the type of business or activity proposed to be operated
29 in conjunction with the proposed license is and will be consistent with
30 the public interest.

31 (4) Retail licenses, bottle club licenses, craft brewery licenses,

1 or microdistillery licenses issued or renewed by the commission shall be
2 mailed or delivered electronically to the clerk of the city, village, or
3 county who shall deliver the same to the licensee upon receipt from the
4 licensee of proof of payment of (a) the license fee if by the terms of
5 subsection (6) of section 53-124 the fee is payable to the treasurer of
6 such city, village, or county, (b) any fee for publication of notice of
7 hearing before the local governing body upon the application for the
8 license, (c) the fee for publication of notice of renewal as provided in
9 section 53-135.01, and (d) occupation taxes, if any, imposed by such
10 city, village, or county except as otherwise provided in subsection (6)
11 of this section. Notwithstanding any ordinance or charter power to the
12 contrary, no city, village, or county shall impose an occupation tax on
13 the business of any person, firm, or corporation licensed under the act
14 and doing business within the corporate limits of such city or village or
15 within the boundaries of such county in any sum which exceeds two times
16 the amount of the license fee required to be paid under the act to obtain
17 such license.

18 (5) Each license shall designate the name of the licensee, the place
19 of business licensed, and the type of license issued.

20 (6) Class J retail licensees shall not be subject to occupation
21 taxes under subsection (4) of this section.

22 Sec. 7. Section 53-135, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

24 53-135 A retail or bottle club license issued by the commission and
25 outstanding may be automatically renewed by the commission without formal
26 application upon payment of the renewal fee and license fee if payable to
27 the commission prior to or within thirty days after the expiration of the
28 license. The payment shall be an affirmative representation and
29 certification by the licensee that all answers contained in an
30 application, if submitted, would be the same in all material respects as
31 the answers contained in the last previous application. The commission

1 may at any time require a licensee to submit an application, and the
2 commission shall at any time require a licensee to submit an application
3 if requested in writing to do so by the local governing body.

4 If a licensee files an application form ~~in triplicate original~~ upon
5 seeking renewal of his or her license, the application shall be processed
6 as set forth in section 53-131.

7 Sec. 8. Section 53-148.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 53-148.01 Any retail or bottle club licensee shall post in a
10 conspicuous place a sign which clearly reads as follows: Warning:
11 Drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause birth defects.
12 The commission shall prescribe the form of such warning sign and shall
13 make such warning signs available to all retail and bottle club
14 licensees. Warning signs may be provided electronically by the commission
15 to the licensee.

16 Sec. 9. Section 53-180.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 53-180.04 (1) Every licensee of a place where alcoholic liquor is
19 sold at retail shall display at all times in a prominent place a printed
20 card with a minimum height of twenty inches and a width of fourteen
21 inches, with each letter to be a minimum of one-fourth inch in height,
22 which shall read as follows:

23 WARNING TO PERSONS UNDER 21
24 YOU ARE SUBJECT TO
25 NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OR GUARDIAN
26 AND
27 YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF UP TO
28 \$500 FINE
29 3 MONTHS IN JAIL
30 OR BOTH IF YOU ARE UNDER 21 AND YOU CONSUME,
31 PURCHASE, ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE,

1 OR HAVE IN YOUR POSSESSION
2 ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN THIS ESTABLISHMENT
3 AND
4 WARNING TO ADULTS
5 YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF UP TO
6 \$1000 FINE
7 1 YEAR IN JAIL
8 OR BOTH
9 IF YOU ARE 21 OR OVER AND YOU PURCHASE
10 ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR
11 FOR A PERSON UNDER 21
12 AND
13 WARNING TO PURCHASERS OF BEER KEGS
14 PROPER IDENTIFICATION AND PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE
15 ARE REQUIRED
16 LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

17 (2) Such warning sign may be provided electronically by the
18 commission to the licensee.

19 Sec. 10. Original sections 53-101, 53-123.12, 53-124.12, 53-131.01,
20 53-132, 53-135, 53-148.01, and 53-180.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of
21 Nebraska, are repealed.