

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 186**

Introduced by Dover, 19.

Read first time January 13, 2025

Committee: General Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act; to amend
- 2 section 53-123.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change
- 3 provisions related to entertainment districts; to repeal the
- 4 original section; and to declare an emergency.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           **Section 1.** Section 53-123.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,  
2 is amended to read:

3           53-123.17 (1) A local governing body may designate an entertainment  
4 district in which a commons area may be used by retail, craft brewery,  
5 and microdistillery licensees and holders of a manufacturer's license  
6 which obtain an entertainment district license. The local governing body  
7 may, at any time, revoke such designation if it finds that the commons  
8 area threatens the health, safety, or welfare of the public or has become  
9 a common nuisance. The local governing body shall file the designation or  
10 the revocation of the designation with the commission.

11           (2) An entertainment district license allows the sale of alcoholic  
12 liquor for consumption on the premises within the confines of a commons  
13 area. The consumption of alcoholic liquor in the commons area shall only  
14 occur during the hours authorized for sale of alcoholic liquor for  
15 consumption on the premises under section 53-179 and while food service  
16 is available in the commons area or is available for sale by at least one  
17 holder of an entertainment district license. Only the holder of an  
18 entertainment district license or employees of such licensee may sell or  
19 dispense alcoholic liquor in the commons area.

20           (3) An entertainment district licensee shall serve alcoholic liquor  
21 to be consumed in the commons area in containers that prominently display  
22 ~~displays~~ the licensee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is  
23 unique to the licensee under the licensee's retail license, craft brewery  
24 license, microdistillery license, or manufacturer's license. An  
25 entertainment district licensee may allow alcohol sold by another  
26 entertainment district licensee to enter the licensed premises of either  
27 licensee. No entertainment district licensee shall allow alcoholic liquor  
28 to leave the commons area or the premises licensed under its retail  
29 license, craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or  
30 manufacturer's license.

31           (4) If the licensed premises of the holder of a license to sell

1 alcoholic liquor at retail issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124,  
2 a craft brewery license, a microdistillery license, or a manufacturer's  
3 license is adjacent to a commons area in an entertainment district  
4 designated by a local governing body pursuant to this section, the holder  
5 of the license may obtain an annual entertainment district license as  
6 prescribed in this section. The entertainment district license shall be  
7 issued for the same period and may be renewed in the same manner as the  
8 retail license, craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or  
9 manufacturer's license.

10 (5) In order to obtain an entertainment district license, a person  
11 eligible under subsection (4) of this section shall:

12 (a) File an application with the commission upon such forms as the  
13 commission prescribes; and

14 (b) Pay an additional license fee of three hundred dollars for the  
15 privilege of serving alcohol in the entertainment district payable to the  
16 clerk of the local governing body in the same manner as license fees  
17 under subdivision (4) of section 53-134.

18 (6) When an application for an entertainment district license is  
19 filed, the commission shall notify the clerk of the local governing body.  
20 The commission shall include with such notice one copy of the application  
21 by mail or electronic delivery. The local governing body and the  
22 commission shall process the application in the same manner as provided  
23 in section 53-132.

24 (7) The local governing body may impose an occupation tax on the  
25 business of an entertainment district licensee doing business within the  
26 liquor license jurisdiction of the local governing body as provided in  
27 subdivision (11)(b) of this section in accordance with section 53-132.

28 (8) The local governing body with respect to entertainment district  
29 licensees within its liquor license jurisdiction as provided in  
30 subdivision (11)(b) of this section may cancel an entertainment district  
31 license for cause for the remainder of the period for which such

1 entertainment district license is issued. Any person whose entertainment  
2 district license is canceled may appeal to the commission in accordance  
3 with section 53-134.

4 (9) A local governing body may regulate by ordinance, not  
5 inconsistent with the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, any area it designates  
6 as an entertainment district.

7 (10) Violation of any provision of this section or any rules or  
8 regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section by an  
9 entertainment district licensee may be cause to revoke, cancel, or  
10 suspend the retail license issued under subsection (6) of section 53-124,  
11 craft brewery license, microdistillery license, or manufacturer's license  
12 held by such licensee.

13 (11) For purposes of this section:

14 ~~(a)(i) (a)~~ Commons area means ~~an area~~:

15 (A) For a city of the primary class or a city of the metropolitan  
16 class, an area:

17 (I) ~~(i)~~ Within an entertainment district designated by a local  
18 governing body;

19 (II) ~~(ii)~~ Shared by authorized licensees with entertainment district  
20 licenses;

21 (III) ~~(iii)~~ Abutting the licensed premises of such licensees;

22 (IV) ~~(iv)~~ Having limited pedestrian accessibility by use of a  
23 physical barrier, either on a permanent or temporary basis; and

24 (V) ~~(v)~~ Closed to vehicular traffic when used as a commons area;  
25 and -

26 (B) For a city of the first class, a city of the second class, a  
27 village, or the unincorporated portion of a county, an area:

28 (I) Within an entertainment district designated by a local governing  
29 body;

30 (II) Shared by authorized licensees with entertainment district  
31 licenses;

1        (III) Abutting the licensed premises of such licensees;

2        (IV) With reasonable safety measures in place to protect  
3 pedestrians, including signage, lighting, and reduced motor vehicle  
4 speeds when motor vehicles will be in close proximity to pedestrians; and

5        (V) With a prohibition on the carrying of open alcoholic liquor  
6 containers and the consumption of alcoholic liquor on any open street or  
7 highway except when necessary to cross the same at a designated  
8 crosswalk.

9        (ii) Commons area may include any area of a public or private right-  
10 of-way if the area otherwise meets the requirements of this section; and

11        (b) Local governing body means the governing body of the city or  
12 village in which the entertainment district licensee is located.

13        **Sec. 2.** Original section 53-123.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
14 Nebraska, is repealed.

15        **Sec. 3.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
16 passed and approved according to law.