

LEGISLATIVE BILL 845

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2006

Introduced by Landis, 46; Aguilar, 35

AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act; to amend sections 53-101 and 53-132, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to issuance of retail licenses; to provide for beverage-server and licensee training and certification; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

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

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

Sec. 2. Section 53-132, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

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

(2) A retail license or craft brewery license ~~shall~~ may be issued to any qualified applicant if the commission finds that (a) the applicant is fit, willing, and able to properly provide the service proposed within the city, village, or county where the premises described in the application are located, (b) the applicant can conform to all provisions and requirements of and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, (c) the applicant has demonstrated that the type of management and control to be exercised over the premises described in the application will be sufficient to insure that the licensed business can conform to all provisions and requirements of and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the act, and (d) the issuance of the license is or will be required by the present or future public convenience and necessity.

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

- (a) The recommendation of the local governing body;
- (b) The existence of a citizens' protest made in accordance with section 53-133;
- (c) The existing population of the city, village, or county and its projected growth;
- (d) The nature of the neighborhood or community of the location of the proposed licensed premises;
- (e) The existence or absence of other retail licenses or craft brewery licenses with similar privileges within the neighborhood or community of the location of the proposed licensed premises and whether, as evidenced by substantive, corroborative documentation, the issuance of such license would result in or add to an undue concentration of licenses with similar privileges and, as a result, require the use of additional law enforcement resources;
- (f) The existing motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises;
- (g) The adequacy of existing law enforcement;
- (h) Zoning restrictions;
- (i) The sanitation or sanitary conditions on or about the proposed licensed premises; and
- (j) Whether the type of business or activity proposed to be operated in conjunction with the proposed license is and will be consistent with the public interest.

(4) Retail licenses or craft brewery licenses issued or renewed by the commission shall be mailed or delivered to the clerk of the city, village, or county who shall deliver the same to the licensee upon receipt from the licensee of proof of payment of (a) the license fee if by the terms of subdivision (5) of section 53-124 the fee is payable to the treasurer of such city, village, or county, (b) any fee for publication of notice of hearing before the local governing body upon the application for the license, (c) the fee for publication of notice of renewal as provided in section 53-135.01, and (d) occupation taxes, if any, imposed by such city, village,

or county. Notwithstanding any ordinance or charter power to the contrary, no city, village, or county shall impose an occupation tax on the business of any person, firm, or corporation licensed under the act and doing business within the corporate limits of such city or village or within the boundaries of such county in any sum which exceeds two times the amount of the license fee required to be paid under the act to obtain such license.

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

Sec. 3. (1) On or before January 1, 2007, the commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing programs which provide training for persons employed in the sale and service of alcoholic liquor and management of licensed premises. Such rules and regulations may include, but need not be limited to:

(a) Minimum standards governing training of beverage servers, including standards and requirements governing curriculum, program trainers, and certification requirements;

(b) Minimum standards governing training in management of licensed premises, including standards and requirements governing curriculum, program trainers, and certification requirements;

(c) Minimum standards governing the methods allowed for training programs which may include the Internet, interactive video, live training in various locations across the state, and other means deemed appropriate by the commission;

(d) Methods for approving beverage-server training organizations and programs. All beverage-server training programs approved by the commission shall issue a certificate of completion to all persons who successfully complete the program and shall provide the names of all persons completing the program to the commission;

(e) Enrollment fees in an amount determined by the commission to be necessary to cover the expense of enrolling in a training program offered by the commission pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, but not to exceed thirty dollars; and

(f) Procedures and fees for certification, which fees shall be in an amount determined by the commission to be sufficient to defray the expenses associated with maintaining a list of persons certified under this section and issuing proof of certification to eligible individuals but shall not exceed twenty dollars.

(2) The commission may create a program to provide training for persons employed in the sale and service of alcoholic liquor and management of licensed premises. The program shall include training on the issues of sales and service of alcoholic liquor to minors and to visibly inebriated purchasers. The commission may charge each person enrolling in the program an enrollment fee as provided in the rules and regulations, but such fee shall not exceed thirty dollars. All such fees shall be collected by the commission and remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Rule and Regulation Cash Fund.

(3) A person who has completed a training program which complies with the rules and regulations, whether such program is offered by the commission or by another organization, may become certified by the commission upon the commission receiving evidence that he or she has completed such program and the person seeking certification paying the certification fee established under this section.

Sec. 4. Original sections 53-101 and 53-132, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.