
SENATE BILL 6341

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Stanford and King

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the liquor and cannabis board to
2 provide written interpretations of liquor statutes and rules; adding
3 a new section to chapter 66.08 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to protect public
6 health and safety, facilitate tax collection, and preserve an orderly
7 liquor market by ensuring liquor licensees, the public, and employees
8 of the liquor and cannabis board understand how Title 66 RCW will be
9 interpreted and enforced by the board.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 66.08
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The board must adopt rules to allow persons licensed under
13 this title or organizations representing liquor licensees to request
14 a written board interpretation of liquor laws and rules to specific
15 facts presented by the requester. The process of requesting a written
16 interpretation must be clearly identified and described on the
17 board's public web site.

18 (2) The board must provide a written interpretation to the
19 requester within sixty days of the requester submitting an initial

1 request for the interpretation. The board may request additional
2 information from the requester during this sixty-day period.

3 (3) The board must make any written interpretation, or summary of
4 the interpretation under (d) of this subsection, available for public
5 inspection within thirty days of providing the interpretation to the
6 requester. The board must publish all interpretations on its public
7 web site in a manner that provides a complete collection of
8 interpretations organized by topic and readily searchable by the
9 public. Before making a written interpretation available for public
10 inspection, the board must:

11 (a) Remove the name, address, and other identifying details of
12 the person or organization requesting the interpretation;

13 (b) If possible, make the interpretation generally applicable to
14 all licensees by removing the name, address, and other identifying
15 details of a specific licensee;

16 (c) Remove information, the disclosure of which is expressly
17 prohibited by statute or rule; and

18 (d) Upon request, prepare a summary of the interpretation and
19 post this summary instead of the interpretation if the interpretation
20 cannot be prepared in a manner that avoids information uniquely
21 identifying the requester.

22 (4) All enforcement action of the board must be consistent with
23 its published written interpretations, unless the board formally
24 withdraws an interpretation.

25 (5) The board may withdraw a written interpretation at any time
26 and for any reason provided the board identifies justification for
27 the withdrawal on its public web site.

28 (6) Upon request of a liquor licensee or organization liquor
29 licensees, the board must provide notice of the publication or
30 withdrawal of any interpretation.

31 (7) This section does not prevent the board from providing
32 confidential interpretations to individual licensees if the
33 confidential interpretation is not in conflict with a written
34 interpretation published by the board.

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