

1 AN ACT
2 RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
3 SPECIAL INDEPENDENT THEATER DISPENSING LICENSES FOR BEER AND
4 WINE.

5
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

7 SECTION 1. A new section of the Liquor Control Act is
8 enacted to read:

9 "SPECIAL INDEPENDENT THEATER DISPENSING LICENSE--FEES--
10 LIMITATIONS.--

11 A. The director may issue a special independent
12 theater dispensing license to an owner or operator of an
13 independent theater in accordance with rules promulgated by
14 the director to protect public health and safety. The
15 license shall be limited to the serving of wine and beer to
16 customers of the independent theater in conjunction with that
17 independent theater's movie screenings or other events.

18 B. An independent theater may apply for a special
19 independent theater dispensing license. The license shall
20 allow an owner, operator or employee of an independent
21 theater who holds a server permit to dispense only wine or
22 beer to customers of the independent theater in conjunction
23 with movie screenings or other events on the premises of the
24 independent theater.

25 C. The issuance of a special independent theater

1 dispensing license shall be contingent on the approval of the
2 governing body or local option district of the jurisdiction
3 in which the independent theater is domiciled.

4 D. Service of beer or wine to customers of an
5 independent theater shall be limited to two twelve-ounce
6 servings of beer or two six-ounce servings of wine per
7 customer for each event.

8 E. A special independent theater dispensing
9 license shall not be transferable from person to person or
10 from one location to another.

11 F. An owner, operator or employee of an
12 independent theater who holds a server permit shall comply
13 with the provisions of Chapter 60, Article 6E NMSA 1978.

14 G. As used in this section, "independent theater"
15 means a business establishment that:

16 (1) is operated primarily for the purpose of
17 exhibiting movies or hosting live productions and events;

18 (2) is owned and operated by a New Mexico
19 resident or is a business or organization registered in
20 New Mexico; and

21 (3) has been in existence for at least one
22 year."

23 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
24 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025. _____