

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 159

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

This document may incorporate amendments proposed by a committee, but not yet adopted, as well as amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show amendments in context and cannot be used for the purpose of adding amendments to legislation.

AN ACT

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF  
SPECIAL INDEPENDENT THEATER DISPENSING LICENSES FOR BEER AND  
WINE.

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

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

"[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL INDEPENDENT THEATER DISPENSING

.231772.2AIC March 11, 2025 (4:38pm)

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete  
Amendments: new = bold, blue, highlight  
delete = bold, red, highlight, strikethrough

LICENSE--FEES--LIMITATIONS.--

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

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

C. The issuance of a special independent theater dispensing license shall be contingent on the approval of the governing body or local option district of the jurisdiction in which the independent theater is domiciled.

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

E. A special independent theater dispensing license shall not be transferable from person to person or from one

location to another.

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

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

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

Sf11→(2)←Sf11 ~~is in a single location;~~←Sf11

Sf11→(3)←Sf11 Sf11→(2)←Sf11 is owned and operated by a New Mexico resident or is a business or organization registered in New Mexico; and

Sf11→(4)←Sf11 Sf11→(3)←Sf11 has been in existence for at least one year."

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

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