

EXHIBIT NO. 1
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BILL NO. SB 497

Other cities over quota for liquor licenses, too

By Tribune Staff

Great Falls isn't the only city in Montana where liquor licenses exceed the state-set license quota, but the Electric City is farther over the limit than most cities.

The quota for all-beverage licenses in Great Falls and the five-mile "doughnut" around the city is 40, according to Neil Peterson, administrator of customer services for the Montana Department of Revenue. With 79 active licenses, Great Falls is 39 over its quota, he said.

According to Jason Wood, unit manager of liquor licensing in the state, here are comparable figures from other municipalities:

- Billings has 92 active all-beverage licenses, 26 over the city's quota of 66.

- In Missoula, 70 licenses are active, 27 over the city's quota of 43.

- Helena has 42 licenses, 21 over a quota of 21.

- Bozeman has 33 licenses, 10 over a quota of 23.

- Kalispell has 22 licenses, 9 over a quota of 13.

- In Butte, the situation is different, because of the merger of the city and county. Butte-Silverbow has 86 all-beverage licenses, 61 over a quota of 25.

- In the merged Anaconda-Deer Lodge, there are 35 licenses, 27 over a quota of 8.

The quotas were set in 1947, based on population at that time.

Bars with all-beverage licenses can have up to 20 gaming machines, if they choose.

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