



AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING LAWS; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING LICENSING; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO SUITABLE PREMISES FOR LICENSED RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO RESORT ALL-BEVERAGES LICENSES; REVISING LAWS APPLYING TO LOANS AND FINANCING BY LICENSEES; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO CONCESSION AGREEMENTS; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO BUSINESS OWNERSHIP INTERESTS; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO BOTTLE CLUBS; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PREMISES SUITABILITY; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO SEATING AND VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 16-3-218, 16-3-301, 16-3-311, 16-4-213, 16-4-401, 16-4-406, 16-4-414, 16-4-415, 16-6-306, AND 23-5-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 16-3-218, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-3-218. "Distribute" defined.** As used in 16-3-219, 16-3-220, 16-4-103, and 16-4-108, "distribute" means to deliver beer or wine to a retailer's premises licensed to sell beer, table wine, or sacramental wine as well as an alternate alcoholic beverage storage facility as allowed in 16-4-213(8)."

**Section 2.** Section 16-3-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-3-301. Unlawful purchases, transfers, sales, or deliveries -- presumption of legal age.** (1) It is unlawful for a licensed retailer to purchase or acquire beer or wine from anyone except a brewery, winery, or wholesaler licensed under the provisions of this code except as allowed in 16-4-213(8).

(2) It is unlawful for a licensed retailer to transport beer or wine from one licensed premises or other facility to any other licensed premises owned by the licensee except as allowed in 16-4-213(8).

(3) It is unlawful for a licensed retailer to purchase or acquire liquor from anyone except an agency

liquor store except as allowed in 16-4-213(8).

~~(3)~~(4) It is unlawful for a licensed wholesaler to purchase beer or wine from anyone except a brewery, winery, or wholesaler licensed or registered under this code.

~~(4)~~(5) It is unlawful for any licensee, a licensee's employee, or any other person to sell, deliver, or give away or cause or permit to be sold, delivered, or given away any alcoholic beverage to:

- (a) any person under 21 years of age; or
- (b) any person actually, apparently, or obviously intoxicated.

~~(5)~~(6) Any person under 21 years of age or any other person who knowingly misrepresents the person's qualifications for the purpose of obtaining an alcoholic beverage from the licensee is equally guilty with the licensee and, upon conviction, is subject to the penalty provided in 45-5-624. However, nothing in this section may be construed as authorizing or permitting the sale of an alcoholic beverage to any person in violation of any federal law.

~~(6)~~(7) All licensees shall display in a prominent place in their premises a placard, issued by the department, stating fully the consequences for violations of the provisions of this code by persons under 21 years of age.

~~(7)~~(8) For purposes of 45-5-623 and this title, the establishment of the following facts by a person making a sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the legal age constitutes prima facie evidence of innocence and a defense to a prosecution for sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the legal age:

- (a) the purchaser falsely represented and supported with documentary evidence that an ordinary and prudent person would accept that the purchaser was of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages;
- (b) the appearance of the purchaser was such that an ordinary and prudent person would believe the purchaser to be of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages; and
- (c) the sale was made in good faith and in reasonable reliance upon the representation and appearance of the purchaser that the purchaser was of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages. (See compiler's comments for contingent termination of certain text.)"

**Section 3.** Section 16-3-311, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-3-311. Suitable premises for licensed retail establishments.** (1) (a) A licensed retailer may

use a part of a building as premises licensed for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages. The licensed retailer must demonstrate that it has adequate control over all alcoholic beverages to prevent self-service, service to underage persons, and service to persons who are actually or apparently intoxicated. The premises must be separated from the rest of the building by permanent walls but may have inside access during lawful hours of operation to the rest of the building at all times even if the businesses or uses in the other part of the building are unrelated to the operation of the premises in which the alcoholic beverages are served. If the premises are located in a portion of a building, the licensed retailer must be able to demonstrate that there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent public access to alcoholic beverages after hours, either by the presence of a lockable door or other security features such as rolling gates, locking cabinets, tap locks, or key card access.

(b) A resort retail all-beverages licensee or a retail all-beverages licensee within the boundaries of a resort area may also utilize an alternate alcoholic beverage storage facility as allowed in 16-4-213(8).

(2) A licensee may alter the approved floorplan of the premises. The alteration must be consistent with the requirements of subsection (1)(a). A licensee shall provide a copy of the revised floorplan with the proposed alteration for the licensed premises to the department within 7 days of beginning the alteration. Department approval may not be unreasonably withheld. ~~whose premises did not meet the requirements of this section on September 24, 1992, shall meet the requirements when an alteration to the premises has been completed and the department has approved the alteration.~~ If the completed alteration differs from the approved alteration due to modifications required for approval by other state or local government entities, such as compliance with fire or building codes, the department must be notified, but preapproval is not required for these modifications. An alteration for the purposes of this section is any structural change in a premises that does not increase the square footage of the existing approved premises. An alteration that increases the square footage of the existing approved premises must be approved by the department prior to beginning the alteration. A cosmetic change, such as painting, carpeting, or other interior decorating, is not considered an alteration under this section.

(3) The interior portion of the licensed premises must be a continuous area that is under the control of the licensee and not interrupted by any area in which the licensee does not have adequate control, and includes multiple floors on the premises and common areas necessarily shared by multiple building tenants in

order to allow patrons to access other tenant businesses or private dwellings in the same building, including but not limited to entryways, hallways, stairwells, and elevators.

(4) The premises may include one or more exterior patios or decks as long as sufficient physical safeguards are in place to ensure proper service and consumption of alcoholic beverages. An additional perimeter barrier may not be required if an existing boundary naturally defines the outdoor service area and impedes foot traffic.

(5) Premises suitability does not include a minimum number of seats.

(6) A licensed retailer may apply to the department to have a noncontiguous storage area that is under the control of the licensed retailer approved for onsite alcoholic beverage storage separate from its service area as long as the licensed retailer demonstrates that there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent public access to alcoholic beverages after hours, either by the presence of a lockable door or other security features such as rolling gates, locking cabinets, tap locks, or key card access. The application fee is \$100.

(7) A licensed retailer operating within a hotel or similar short-term lodging facility may apply to the department to allow for the delivery of alcoholic beverages to guests of accommodation units and the prestocking of alcoholic beverages in accommodation units is allowed for the accommodation units within the property as long as the purchaser's age is verified and there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent underage service. The application fee is \$100."

**Section 4.** Section 16-4-213, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-4-213. Resort retail all-beverages licenses.** (1) After a resort area has been approved, applications may be filed with the department for the issuance of resort retail all-beverages licenses within the resort area.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c), the department may issue one resort retail all-beverages license for the first 100 accommodation units and an additional license for each additional 50 accommodation units within an approved resort area as long as the recreational facilities under 16-4-212 have also been completed.

(b) For a resort area with a perimeter containing at least 1,000 contiguous acres that has a current

actual valuation of completed recreational facilities, including land and improvements, of not less than \$30 million, the department may issue up to 10 resort retail all-beverages licenses regardless of the number of accommodation units.

(c) A resort area designation application to the department that received approval prior to January 1, 1999, is entitled to the issuance of one resort retail all-beverages license for a \$20,000 license fee. Any additional resort retail all-beverages licenses issued to a resort area under this subsection (2)(c) must meet the accommodation unit requirement in subsection (2)(a) of this section and pay the license fee and renewal fees as provided in 16-4-501.

(d) (i) For purposes of this code, "accommodation unit" means a unit that is available for short-term guest rental and includes:

~~(i)~~(A) a single-family home;

~~(ii)~~(B) a single unit of an apartment, condominium, or multiplex;

~~(iii)~~(C) a single room of a hotel or motel; or

~~(iv)~~(D) similar living space ~~for occupants making up a single household~~. A space under this subsection ~~(2)(d)(iv)~~ (2)(d)(i)(D) must be distinctly separated from other living spaces within the building and have its own sleeping, bath, and toilet facilities.

(ii) In order to qualify toward the required total for the purposes of subsection (2)(a), accommodation units may not be located within the boundaries of a quota area as provided in 16-4-201(1) or (2) as of the date of submission for a resort retail all-beverages license.

(3) Regardless of how many resort area all-beverages licenses are issued in a resort area, no more than 20 gambling machine permits may be issued for the resort area.

(4) A resort retail all-beverages license within the resort area:

(a) is subject to all other requirements of an all-beverages license in this code, except:

(i) for the purposes of premises suitability under 16-3-311, a licensed retailer may use a part of the building as a licensed premises for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises. The premises must be separated from the rest of the building by permanent walls but may have inside access to the rest of the building at all times even if the businesses or uses in the other part of the building are unrelated to the operation of the premises in which alcoholic beverages are served. If the premises are located in a portion of a

building, the licensed retailer must be able to demonstrate that there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent public access to alcoholic beverages after hours, either by the presence of a lockable door or other security features such as rolling gates, locking cabinets, tap locks, or key card access;

(ii) the interior portion of the licensed premises must be a continuous area that is under the control of the licensee and not interrupted by any area in which the licensee does not have adequate control, and includes multiple floors on the premises and common areas necessarily shared by multiple building tenants in order to allow patrons to access other tenant businesses or private dwellings in the same building, including but not limited to entryways, hallways, stairwells, and elevators; and

(iii) the premises may include one or more exterior patios or decks as long as sufficient physical safeguards are in place to ensure proper service and consumption of alcoholic beverages. An additional perimeter barrier may not be required if an existing boundary naturally defines the outdoor service area and impedes foot traffic.;

(b) is not subject to the quota limitations set forth in 16-4-201; and

(c) is transferable to another location within the boundaries of the resort area or to another owner to be used at a location within the boundaries of the resort area.

(5) For licenses issued under this section, a licensee may apply to the department to allow for the delivery of alcohol to guests of accommodation units and the prestocking of alcoholic beverages in accommodation units ~~is allowed to the accommodation units on~~ within the designated resort area property as long as ~~the purchaser is present, the purchaser's age is verified, and the purchaser is not intoxicated.~~ The application fee is \$100.

(6) Employees of the resort licensee who sell, serve, or deliver alcohol must be trained as provided in 16-4-1005.

(7) A resort retail all-beverages licensee whose premises is located outside of a quota area as defined in 16-4-201(1) or (2) may enter into a maximum of one concession agreement per license with an unlicensed entity to serve alcoholic beverages. The provisions of 16-4-418 apply.

(8) If a resort area has two or more resort retail all-beverage licenses or retail all-beverages licenses within the boundaries of the resort, the licensees may also apply to use a resort alternate alcoholic beverage storage facility to be located within the resort area. The application fee is \$100. The alternate storage facility will

be considered part of each licensee's existing licensed premises, though it does not need to be contiguous to qualify for approval. The licensees using the alternate storage facility must meet all requirements to ensure the secure storage of alcoholic beverages and prevent on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages in sealed containers belonging to multiple licensees within the resort area may be stored in the same storage facility. A resort retail licensee or retail licensee who is approved to use the alternate storage facility may accept delivery of alcoholic beverages at the alternate storage facility and may transfer alcoholic beverages to another licensee approved to use the alternate storage facility. Any transfer of alcoholic beverages between approved licensees must be properly accounted for. Approval to use the alternate storage facility must be documented on the face of each license within the resort area that applies to use the alternate storage facility."

**Section 5.** Section 16-4-401, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-4-401. License as privilege -- criteria for decision on application.** (1) A license under this code is a privilege that the state may grant to an applicant and is not a right to which any applicant is entitled.

(2) Except as provided in 16-4-311 and subsection (6) of this section and subject to subsection (8), in the case of a license that permits on-premises consumption, the department shall find in every case in which it makes an order for the issuance of a new license or for the approval of the transfer of a license that:

(a) if the applicant is an individual:

(i) and the application is approved, the applicant will not possess an ownership interest in more than three establishments licensed under this chapter for all-beverages sales. However, resort retail all-beverages licenses issued under 16-4-213 do not count toward this limit.

(ii) the applicant does not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-106;

(iii) the applicant or any member of the applicant's immediate family is without financing from or any affiliation to a manufacturer, importer, bottler, or distributor of alcoholic beverages;

(iv) the applicant's past record and present status as a purveyor of alcoholic beverages and as a business person and citizen demonstrate that the applicant is likely to operate the establishment in compliance with all applicable laws of the state and local governments; however, nothing in this subsection (2)(a)(iv)

authorizes the department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an income tax protestor when renewing the license; and

(v) the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if the applicant has been convicted of a felony, the applicant's rights have been restored; and

~~(v)~~(vi) the applicant is not under 19 years of age;

(b) if the applicant is a publicly traded corporation:

(i) each owner of ~~40%~~ 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a). If no single owner owns more than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a).

(ii) each individual who has control over the operation of the license meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a);

(iii) each person who shares in the profits or liabilities of a license meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a). This subsection (2)(b)(iii) does not apply to a shareholder of a corporation who owns less than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock in that corporation except that the provisions of subsection (8) apply.

(iv) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;

(c) if the applicant is a privately held corporation:

(i) each owner of ~~40%~~ 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a). If no single owner owns more than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a), and the owners of 51% of the outstanding stock must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).

(ii) each individual who has control over the operation of the license meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a);

(iii) each person who shares in the profits or liabilities of a license meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (2)(a). This subsection (2)(c)(iii) does not apply to a shareholder of a corporation who owns less than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock in that corporation except that the provisions



of subsection (8) apply.

(iv) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;

(d) if the applicant is a general partnership, each partner must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a);

(e) if the applicant is a limited partnership or a limited liability partnership, each general partner and all limited partners whose ownership interest in the partnership equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a). If no single limited partner's interest equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15%, then 51% of all limited partners must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).

(f) if the applicant is a limited liability company, all managing members and those members whose ownership interest in the company equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a). If no single member's interest equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15%, then 51% of all members must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).

(3) In the case of a license that permits only off-premises consumption and subject to subsection (8), the department shall find in every case in which it makes an order for the issuance of a new license or for the approval of the transfer of a license that:

(a) if the applicant is an individual:

(i) and the application is approved, the applicant will not possess an ownership interest in more than three establishments licensed under this chapter for all-beverages sales;

(ii) the applicant does not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-106;

(iii) the applicant or any member of the applicant's immediate family is without financing from or any affiliation to a manufacturer, importer, bottler, or distributor of alcoholic beverages;

(iv) the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if the applicant has been convicted of a felony, the applicant's rights have been restored;

(v) the applicant's past record and present status as a purveyor of alcoholic beverages and as a business person and citizen demonstrate that the applicant is likely to operate the establishment in compliance with all applicable laws of the state and local governments; however, nothing in this subsection (2)(a)(iv) authorizes the department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an income tax

protestor when renewing the license; and

(vi) the applicant is not under 19 years of age;

(b) if the applicant is a publicly traded corporation:

(i) each owner of ~~40%~~ 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual listed in subsection (3)(a). If no single owner owns more than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (3)(a).

(ii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;

(c) if the applicant is a privately held corporation:

(i) each owner of ~~40%~~ 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (3)(a). If no single owner owns more than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (3)(a), and the owners of 51% of the outstanding stock must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a).

(ii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;

(d) if the applicant is a general partnership, each partner must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a);

(e) if the applicant is a limited partnership or a limited liability partnership, each general partner and all limited partners whose ownership interest in the partnership equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a). If no single limited partner's interest equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15%, then 51% of all limited partners must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a).

(f) if the applicant is a limited liability company, all managing members and those members whose ownership interest in the company equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a). If no single member's interest equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15%, then 51% of all members must meet the requirements of subsection (3)(a).

(4) Subject to 16-4-311, in the case of a license that permits the manufacture, importing, or wholesaling of an alcoholic beverage, the department shall find in every case in which it makes an order for the issuance of a new license or for the approval of the transfer of a license that:

- (a) if the applicant is an individual:
- (i) the applicant has no ownership interest in any establishment licensed under this chapter for retail alcoholic beverages sales;
  - (ii) the applicant does not possess an ownership interest in an agency liquor store as defined in 16-1-106;
  - (iii) the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if the applicant has been convicted of a felony, the applicant's rights have been restored;
  - (iv) the applicant's past record and present status as a purveyor of alcoholic beverages and as a business person and citizen demonstrate that the applicant is likely to operate the establishment in compliance with all applicable laws of the state and local governments; however, nothing in this subsection (2)(a)(iv) authorizes the department to consider an applicant's tax status or whether the applicant was or is an income tax protestor when renewing the license;
  - (v) the applicant is not under 19 years of age; and
  - (vi) an applicant for a wholesale license is not a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or controlled by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage;
- (b) if the applicant is a publicly traded corporation:
- (i) each owner of ~~40%~~ 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual listed in subsection (4)(a). If no single owner owns more than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant shall designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (4)(a).
  - (ii) an applicant for a wholesale license is not a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or controlled by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage; and
  - (iii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
- (c) if the applicant is a privately held corporation:
- (i) each owner of ~~40%~~ 15% or more of the outstanding stock meets the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (4)(a). If no single owner owns more than ~~40%~~ 15% of the outstanding stock, the applicant must designate two or more officers or board members, each of whom must meet the requirements for an individual applicant listed in subsection (4)(a) and the owners of 51% of the outstanding stock must meet

the requirements of subsection (4)(a).

- (ii) an applicant for a wholesale license is not a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage or owned or controlled by a manufacturer of an alcoholic beverage; and
  - (iii) the corporation is authorized to do business in Montana;
  - (d) if the applicant is a general partnership, each partner must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a);
  - (e) if the applicant is a limited partnership or a limited liability partnership, each general partner and all limited partners whose ownership interest in the partnership equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a). If no single limited partner's interest equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15%, then 51% of all limited partners must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a).
  - (f) if the applicant is a limited liability company, all managing members and those members whose ownership interest in the company equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15% must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a). If no single member's interest equals or exceeds ~~40%~~ 15%, then 51% of all members must meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a).
- (5) In the case of a corporate applicant, the requirements of subsections (2)(b), (3)(b), and (4)(b) apply separately to each class of stock.
- (6) The provisions of subsection (2) do not apply to an applicant for or holder of a license pursuant to 16-4-302.
- (7) An applicant's source of funding must be from a suitable source. A lender or other source of money or credit may be found unsuitable if the source:
- (a) is a person whose prior financial or other activities or criminal record:
    - (i) poses a threat to the public interest of the state;
    - (ii) poses a threat to the effective regulation and control of alcoholic beverages; or
    - (iii) creates a danger of illegal practices, methods, or activities in the conduct of the licensed business;
- or
- (b) has been convicted of a felony offense within 5 years of the date of application or is on probation or parole or under deferred prosecution for committing a felony offense.
- (8) (a) An individual applying for an all-beverages license or having any ownership interest in an

entity applying for an all-beverages license may not, if the application were to be approved, own an interest in more than half the total number of allowable all-beverages licenses in any quota area described in 16-4-201.

(b) If two or more individuals through business or family relationship share in the profits or liabilities of all-beverages licenses, the aggregate number of licenses in which they share profits or liabilities may not exceed half the total number of allowable all-beverages licenses in the specific quota area in which the all-beverages licenses will be held.

(9) (a) Except as specifically provided in this code relating to financial interests in licenses, nothing in this section applies or otherwise prohibits an applicant or licensee from obtaining personal financing from a licensed financial institution, taking advantage of consumer credit, or using a personal credit card to make purchases on behalf of a licensed entity if the applicant or licensee is reimbursed by the licensed entity within 90 days. An applicant or individual may obtain multiple transactions up to an aggregate maximum of \$100,000 with each individual transaction not to exceed \$25,000 to be used on behalf of the licensed entity.

(b) A licensee's use of short-term financing of 90 days or less from institutional lenders and noninstitutional lenders does not constitute an undisclosed ownership interest in the license.

(c) It is the intent of this subsection (9) to facilitate the efficient administration of an entity licensed under this code."

**Section 6.** Section 16-4-406, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-4-406. Renewal -- suspension or revocation -- penalty -- mitigating and aggravating circumstances.** (1) The department shall upon a written, verified complaint of a person request that the department of justice investigate the action and operation of a brewer, winery, wholesaler, domestic distillery, table wine distributor, beer or wine importer, retailer, concessionaire, or any other person or business licensed or registered under this code.

(2) Subject to the opportunity for a hearing under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, if the department, after reviewing admissions of either the licensee or concessionaire or receiving the results of the department of justice's or a local law enforcement agency's investigation, has reasonable cause to believe that a licensee or concessionaire has violated a provision of this code or a rule of the department, it may, in its discretion and in addition to the other penalties prescribed:

- (a) reprimand a licensee or concessionaire or both;
  - (b) proceed to revoke the license of the licensee or the concession agreement of the concessionaire or both only if the violations jeopardize health, welfare, and safety, or there is not a proposed cure in place;
  - (c) suspend the license or the concession agreement or both for a period of not more than 3 months;
  - (d) refuse to grant a renewal of the license or concession agreement or both after its expiration only if the violations jeopardize health, welfare, and safety, or there is not a proposed cure in place; or
  - (e) impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,500.
- (3) The department shall consider mitigating circumstances and may adjust penalties within penalty ranges based on its consideration of mitigating circumstances. Examples of mitigating circumstances are:
- (a) there have been no violations by the licensee or concessionaire or both within the past 3 years;
  - (b) there have been good faith efforts by the licensee or concessionaire or both to prevent a violation;
  - (c) written policies exist that govern the conduct of the licensee's employees or the concessionaire's employees or both;
  - (d) there has been cooperation in the investigation of the violation that shows that the licensee or concessionaire or both or an employee or agent of the licensee or concessionaire or both accepts responsibility;
  - (e) the investigation was not based on complaints received or on observed misconduct, but was based solely on the investigating authority creating the opportunity for a violation; or
  - (f) the licensee or concessionaire or both have provided responsible alcohol server training to all of their employees.
- (4) The department shall consider aggravating circumstances and may adjust penalties within penalty ranges based on its consideration of aggravating circumstances. Examples of aggravating circumstances are:
- (a) prior warnings about compliance problems;
  - (b) prior violations within the past 3 years;
  - (c) lack of written policies governing employee conduct;
  - (d) multiple violations during the course of the investigation;
  - (e) efforts to conceal a violation;
  - (f) the intentional nature of the violation; or

(g) involvement of more than one patron or employee in a violation."

**Section 7.** Section 16-4-414, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-4-414. Fingerprints required of applicants -- exceptions.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) ~~and, and~~ (3), an applicant for a license under this code, any person employed by the applicant as a manager, and, if the applicant is a privately held corporation, ~~each person holding 10% or more of the outstanding stock and each person holding 15% or more of the outstanding stock and each officer shall submit their fingerprints with the application to facilitate a fingerprint and background check by the department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation. If the applicant is a publicly traded corporation, officer and director~~ any person employed by the applicant as a location manager and an officer shall submit their fingerprints with the application to facilitate a fingerprint and background check by the department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation. The results of the investigation must be used by the department in determining the applicant's eligibility for a license.

(2) (a) When the applicant is seeking a license for off-premises consumption, the following persons are subject to the fingerprint and background check described in subsection (1):

- (i) the applicant;
- (ii) a person designated by the applicant as responsible for operating the licensed establishment on behalf of the licensee; or
- (iii) if the applicant is a corporation, ~~each person holding 10% or more of the outstanding stock and each officer and director~~ responsible for operating the licensed establishment.

(b) Additional fingerprint and background checks may be required at renewal only for new persons described in subsection (2)(a).

(c) A change in the form of a licensee's business entity that does not result in any person having a new ownership interest in the business is not grounds for the department to require a fingerprint or background check.

(3) When the applicant is seeking a license for off-premises consumption, a person employed by the applicant as a manager is not subject to the fingerprint and background check described in subsection (1).

(4) Approved applicants may use a single background check and set of fingerprints for multiple

license applications within 3 years. Applicants must attest that no criminal charges have been filed since the background check was last completed."

**Section 8.** Section 16-4-415, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-4-415. Changes in business entity ownership -- department approval required.** (1) In the case of corporate licensees, a person or entity that does not own stock or owns less than 40% 15% of the stock in the corporation may not receive stock that results in the person or entity's share of stock in the corporation being 40% 15% or greater ~~or greater~~, unless the department reviews and determines that the person or entity qualifies for ownership of a ~~liquor~~ license as provided in 16-4-401.

(2) In the case of all other business entities, when a proposed transfer of ownership would result in a party who prior to the transfer owned no interest in the license owning ~~an~~ 15% or more interest in the license, the proposed transfer must be submitted to the department for review. The proposed new party must qualify for ownership of a liquor license as provided in 16-4-401.

(3) In the case of a proposed change in business entity, the proposed new business entity shall apply for a transfer of ownership of the license with the department prior to changing the business entity. The proposed new business entity must qualify for ownership of a liquor license as provided in 16-4-401. If the existing owners and ownership percentages do not change under the proposed change in business entity, the new entity shall notify the department of the new business entity type, but prior department approval is not required."

**Section 9.** Section 16-6-306, MCA, is amended to read:

**"16-6-306. Bottle clubs prohibited.** (1) The operation of alcoholic beverage bottle clubs is hereby prohibited by any ~~person, persons, partnership, firm, corporation, or association~~ individual or entity. A bottle club is defined as any ~~person, persons, partnership, firm, corporation, or association~~ individual or entity maintaining, operating, or leasing premises not licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages, ~~for a fee or other consideration, including the sale of food, mixes, ice, or any other fluids for alcoholic beverages, or otherwise furnishing premises for such purposes and from which they would derive revenue~~ in which alcoholic beverages are kept for consumption by members of the public or for the purpose of providing a place for consuming



alcoholic beverages by members of the public for a fee or other consideration. For the purposes of this subsection, "consideration" includes but is not limited to a cover charge, the sale of food, ice, mixers, or any other fluids for alcoholic beverages, the furnishing of glassware or other containers for use in the consumption of alcoholic beverages, or the expectation of a purchase of a good or service.

(2) Nothing in this section prevents the service or consumption of alcoholic beverages at private gatherings. For the purposes of this subsection, "private gathering" means an event hosted by an individual that is not open to the general public and in which no fee or consideration is charged. The term does not include an event catered by a licensed retailer.

~~(2)~~(3) Nothing in this section prohibits a licensed on-premises retailer or concessionaire from opening and serving to patrons 21 years of age or older wine from a sealed bottle brought to the premises by the patron for on-premises consumption. This service may not constitute a violation of 16-3-301 or this section, regardless of whether the licensed retailer charges a corkage fee.

~~(3)~~(4) The department may assess a fine of up to \$500 against individuals or entities serving alcoholic beverages or allowing consumption of alcoholic beverages in violation of subsection (1) without a license or special permit."

**Section 10.** Section 23-5-117, MCA, is amended to read:

**"23-5-117. Premises approval.** (1) The department may approve a premises for issuance or operation of an operator's license if the premises meets the requirements contained in subsections (2) and (3).

(2) The premises may include any concessioned area provided for in 16-4-418 and must:

(a) be a structure or facility that is clearly defined by permanently installed walls that extend from floor to ceiling;

(b) have a unique address assigned by the local government in which the premises is located;

(c) have a public external entrance, leading to a street or other common area, that is not shared with another premises for which an operator's license has been issued; and

(d) be designed and arranged to allow for observation and control of all gambling activities by the gambling operator.

(3) If the premises shares a common internal wall with another premises for which an operator's

license has been issued, the common wall must be permanently installed, opaque, and extend from floor to ceiling and may not contain an internal entrance through which public access is allowed.

(4) The department may not provide additional requirements in rulemaking for premises suitability related to seating."

**Section 11. Coordination instruction.** If both House Bill No. 525 and [this act] are passed and approved and if House Bill No. 525 contains a section that amends 6-4-418, then the final sentence in [section 4(7) of this act], amending 16-4-213, must be amended as follows:

"~~The~~ Except for 16-4-418(1), the provisions of 16-4-418 apply."

**Section 12. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

**Section 13. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Sections 3(6), 3(7), 4(5), and 4(8)] are effective July 1, 2021.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 705, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

HOUSE BILL NO. 705

INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY, D. SALOMON, R. FITZGERALD, M. HOPKINS

AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING LAWS; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING LICENSING; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO SUITABLE PREMISES FOR LICENSED RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO RESORT ALL-BEVERAGES LICENSES; REVISING LAWS APPLYING TO LOANS AND FINANCING BY LICENSEES; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO CONCESSION AGREEMENTS; REVISING LAWS RELATING TO BUSINESS OWNERSHIP INTERESTS; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO BOTTLE CLUBS; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PREMISES SUITABILITY; REVISING LAWS RELATED TO SEATING AND VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 16-3-218, 16-3-301, 16-3-311, 16-4-213, 16-4-401, 16-4-406, 16-4-414, 16-4-415, 16-6-306, AND 23-5-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.