



2017 Colorado Law Updates

Employees Purchasing Alcohol – CRA Supported

Senate Bill 58 by Sen Baumgardner (R-Steamboat Springs) allows an employee or an agent of a licensee (in addition to the Registered Manager associated with the liquor license) to purchase alcohol for the licensee. This is important to restaurants because it formally legalizes practices that are currently industry standard but haven't consistently been allowed by liquor enforcement.

***What does this mean to restaurants?** The passage of this legislation prevents the Colorado Liquor Enforcement division from being able to assess your business a violation because alcohol wasn't ordered by the owner or the registered manager for the license. Because of an interpretation made by LED in the summer of 2016, most liquor licenses would have seen a violation for not having their registered manager or owner order alcohol for the license.*

Age of Tavern Employees – CRA Supported

Senate Bill 237 by Sen Gardner (R-Colorado Springs) fixed a mistake from legislation last year that removed language allowing employees of a Tavern that serves meals, to be between the ages of 18-20, if they are supervised by someone over 21. Senate bill 237 restored that provision.

***What does this mean to you?** The passage of Senate Bill 197 in 2016 screwed up at what age employees can handle alcohol in a Tavern Liquor License. The Passage of this bill fixed the mistake that happened the previous year so Taverns who served full meals could continue to hire 18–20-year-old employees.*

Music Licensing - CRA Supported

House Bill 1092 by Rep Lebsack (D-Thornton) applies new requirements for the operation of music licensing companies in the State of Colorado. Those requirements include:

- Music licensing companies need to register with the Secretary of State in Colorado.
- Music licensing companies need to publish their contract rates on the Secretary of State's website. A music licensing company is not be able to execute a contract with a restaurant or bar in Colorado without the rates being published first.
- Music licensing companies need to publish an accurate list of the music licensed by their companies on the Secretary of State's website.

***What does this mean to restaurants?** The passage of this bill was the first time in almost a decade that restaurants in Colorado were given relief from aggressive performing rights organizations. Now, there are new standards they have to meet in order for them to do business in the State of Colorado.*