

Senate Bill 15, version A Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the sale of alcohol; relating to the posting of warning signs for alcoholic beverages; and providing for an effective date.”

Senate Bill 15 amends existing statutes surrounding the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in our state. The bill not only streamlines our current laws but aims to promote responsible alcohol service, enhance employment opportunities for our youth, and ensure that individuals under 21 are adequately protected. Through the changes proposed in this bill, we clarify and improve the operational guidelines for restaurants, theaters, and seasonal establishments holding alcohol licenses.

Key provisions include:

- Allowing a person aged 18- 20 to be employed and serve alcohol in establishments such as restaurants, breweries, wineries, distilleries, hotels, motels, large resorts.
- Ensuring establishments that choose to employ those under 21 years of age adequately supervise those employees to prevent underage consumption.
- Expanding the ability of individuals aged 16 and older to enter restaurants and other licensed premises for dining, with protections to ensure minors are not inappropriately exposed to alcohol.
- Adjusting the service hours for alcohol in theater establishments, recognizing the evolving nature of entertainment venues and providing greater flexibility while maintaining public safety.
- Updating warning signs in alcohol-serving establishments to emphasize risks.

These common-sense reforms balance public safety with desires of the business community, reflecting our commitment to ensuring that alcohol consumption is managed responsibly in our communities while also providing protections, and increased job opportunities, for young Alaskans.