

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House Labor & Commerce Committee



Rep. Zack Fields  
Co-Chair  
State Capitol, Room 24  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907.465.2647

Rep. Carolyn Hall  
Co-Chair  
State Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907.465.4968

Rep. Robyn Burke  
Rep. Ashley Carrick  
Rep. David Nelson  
Rep. Julie Coulombe  
Rep. Dan Saddler

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### House Bill 68: Sponsor Statement

HB 68 would change existing Alaska statutes to allow employees between the ages of 18 and 20 to serve, sell, dispense, and deliver alcohol within restaurant establishments under appropriate supervision.

HB 68 would create positive change in the following ways:

**Labor Shortages:** Restaurants, particularly in smaller communities, face a significant labor shortage. Allowing individuals aged 18-20 to serve alcohol would expand the available workforce, helping alleviate staffing problems and benefiting the overall industry.

**Economic Growth:** The restaurant industry is a significant driver of economic activity in Alaska. Expanding the potential workforce strengthens businesses, allowing them to operate at full capacity, leading to greater economic contributions overall.

**Responsible Service:** Many establishments already implement robust training programs to ensure responsible alcohol service practices. These measures, combined with on-site supervision, could effectively ensure responsible service by young adults within the restaurant setting.

**Public Health:** As drafted, this bill includes provisions that update Alaska's alcohol warning signs to inform Alaskans that the consumption of alcohol can increase the risk of cancer. This is the first step in shifting public perceptions around alcohol consumption.

With adequate training and supervision, employees aged 18-20 can responsibly and safely handle alcohol sales and service in a controlled restaurant environment. This change would benefit Alaska's economy, alleviate labor shortages, and promote fairness within our service industry.