

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Labor & Commerce Committee



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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.

HOUSE BILL NO. 68

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/24/25

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Health and Social Services

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the sale of alcohol; and relating to the posting of warning signs for**
2 **alcoholic beverages."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 04.09.210(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The board may issue or renew a license under this section only if the

6 (1) board determines that

7 (A) the licensed premises is a bona fide restaurant as defined in
8 AS 04.21.080(b);

9 (B) there is supervision on the premises adequate to reasonably
10 ensure that a person under 21 years of age will not obtain alcoholic beverages,
11 **unless the person is employed as permitted in AS 04.16.049(d);** and

12 (C) it is unlikely that persons under 21 years of age not
13 employed on the premises will enter and remain on the licensed premises for
14 purposes other than dining; and

(2) sale and service of food and alcoholic beverages and any other business conducted on the licensed premises of the restaurant or eating place is under the sole control of the licensee.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 04.09.210(d) is amended to read:

(d) The board may authorize the holder of a restaurant or eating place license

(1) to allow a person who is at least 16 years of age but under 21 years of age to enter and remain on the licensed premises for dining only;

(2) to allow a person who is under 16 years of age to enter and remain on the licensed premises for dining only if

(A) the person is accompanied by a person who is 21 years of age or older; and

(B) the parent or guardian of the person consents to the person being on the licensed premises; and

(3) subject to AS 04.16.049, to employ or permit the employment of a person who is at least 16 years of age but under 21 years of age on the licensed premises if the employer provides adequate supervision to ensure that **an employee who is 16 or 17 years of age** [THE PERSON] does not obtain alcoholic beverages.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 04.09.250(c) is amended to read:

(c) The holder of a theater license may sell or serve alcoholic beverages only in designated areas on the licensed premises and only for **a period beginning two hours** [ONE HOUR] before the event **until one hour after the event** [AND DURING INTERMISSIONS].

* **Sec. 4.** AS 04.09.360(c) is amended to read:

(c) The board may issue or renew a license under this section only if

(1) the board determines that

(A) the licensed premises is a bona fide restaurant as defined in AS 04.21.080(b);

(B) there is supervision on the premises adequate to reasonably ensure that a person under 21 years of age will not obtain alcoholic beverages, **except as provided under AS 04.16.049(d)**; and

(C) it is unlikely that persons under 21 years of age not

1 employed on the premises will enter and remain on the licensed premises for
2 purposes other than dining; and

3 (2) the sale and service of food and alcoholic beverages and any other
4 business conducted on the licensed premises of the restaurant or eating place is under
5 the sole control of the licensee.

6 * **Sec. 5.** AS 04.09.360(f) is amended to read:

7 (f) The board may authorize the holder of a seasonal restaurant or eating place
8 tourism license

9 (1) to allow a person who is at least 16 years of age but under 21 years
10 of age to enter and remain on the licensed premises for dining only;

11 (2) to allow a person who is under 16 years of age to enter and remain
12 on the licensed premises for dining only if

13 (A) the person is accompanied by a person who is 21 years of
14 age or older; and

15 (B) the parent or guardian of the person consents to the person
16 being on the licensed premises; and

17 (3) subject to AS 04.16.049, to employ or permit the employment of a
18 person who is at least 16 years of age but under 21 years of age on the licensed
19 premises if the employer provides adequate supervision to ensure that **an employee**
20 **who is 16 or 17 years of age** [THE PERSON] does not obtain alcoholic beverages.

21 * **Sec. 6.** AS 04.09.450(d) is amended to read:

22 (d) The board may issue an endorsement under this section only if the board
23 finds

24 (1) that the establishment or portion of the establishment for which the
25 endorsement is requested is a bona fide restaurant;

26 (2) there is supervision on the premises adequate to reasonably ensure
27 that a person under 21 years of age will not obtain alcoholic beverages, **except as**
28 **provided under AS 04.16.049(d)**; and

29 (3) that it is unlikely that persons under 21 years of age not employed
30 on the premises will enter and remain on the premises of the bona fide restaurant for
31 purposes other than dining.

1 * **Sec. 7.** AS 04.09.450(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) The board may authorize the holder of a license with a restaurant
3 endorsement

4 (1) to allow a person who is at least 16 years of age but under 21 years
5 of age to enter and remain on the licensed premises for dining only;

6 (2) to allow a person who is under 16 years of age to enter and remain
7 on the licensed premises for dining only if

8 (A) the person is accompanied by a person who is 21 years of
9 age or older; and

10 (B) the parent or guardian of the person consents to the person
11 being on the licensed premises; and

12 (3) subject to AS 04.16.049, to employ or permit the employment of a
13 person who is at least 16 years of age but under 21 years of age on the premises of the
14 bona fide restaurant if the employer provides adequate supervision to ensure that **an**
15 **employee who is 16 or 17 years of age** [THE PERSON] does not obtain alcoholic
16 beverages.

17 * **Sec. 8.** AS 04.16.049(d) is amended to read:

18 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section **and AS 04.16.050(a)**,
19 a person 18, 19, or 20 years of age may be employed within the licensed premises of a
20 **brewery manufacturer, winery manufacturer, distillery manufacturer,** hotel or
21 motel, large resort, golf course, general wholesaler, limited brewed beverage and wine
22 wholesaler, common carrier dispensary, outdoor recreation lodge, **brewery retailer,**
23 **winery retailer, distillery retailer,** or restaurant, may enter and remain within those
24 premises for the purpose of employment, **and, other than for a business that offers**
25 **adult entertainment,** [BUT] may [NOT], in the course of employment, sell, serve,
26 deliver, or dispense alcoholic beverages.

27 * **Sec. 9.** AS 04.16.049(h) is amended to read:

28 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, a person under 21
29 years of age may be present

30 **(1)** on the licensed premises of a

31 **(A)** common carrier dispensary, destination resort, or outdoor

recreation lodge for the purpose of travel, travel lodging, or outdoor recreation activities provided by the licensee if the person is

(i) [(1)] at least 16 years of age; or

(ii) [(2)] under 16 years of age and a parent or legal guardian of the underaged person consents;

(B) theater if the person is

(i) at least 16 years of age; or

(ii) under 16 years of age, is accompanied by a person who is at least 21 years of age, and a parent or legal guardian of the underaged person consents;

(2) in the areas of a licensed premises covered by a large resort endorsement, but excluding the areas of the premises originally covered by the licensee's beverage dispensary or beverage dispensary tourism license where alcohol is being served, for the purpose of travel, travel lodging, or outdoor recreation activities provided by the large resort if the person is

(A) at least 16 years of age; or

(B) under 16 years of age and a parent or legal guardian of the underaged person consents.

* **Sec. 10.** AS 04.16.049 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(k) In this section, "business that offers adult entertainment" has the meaning given in AS 23.10.350(f).

* **Sec. 11.** AS 04.16.052(a) is amended to read:

(a) A licensee or an agent or employee of the licensee may not with criminal negligence

(1) allow another person to sell, barter, or give an alcoholic beverage to a person under the age of 21 years within licensed premises, **except as provided in AS 04.16.049(d);**

(2) allow a person under the age of 21 years to enter and remain within licensed premises except as provided in AS 04.16.049;

(3) allow a person under the age of 21 years to consume an alcoholic beverage within licensed premises;

(4) allow a person under the age of 21 years to sell or serve alcoholic beverages, except as provided in AS 04.16.049(d);

(5) while working on licensed premises, furnish or deliver alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of 21 years, except as provided in AS 04.16.049(d).

* **Sec. 12.** AS 04.21.065(b) is amended to read:

(b) The warning signs required by (a) of this section must be at least 11 inches by 14 inches, and the lettering must be at least one-half inch high and in contrasting colors. The first sign must read, "WARNING: Alcohol use [DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SUCH AS BEER, WINE, WINE COOLERS, AND DISTILLED SPIRITS OR SMOKING CIGARETTES] during pregnancy can cause birth defects. Alcohol use can cause cancer, including breast and colon cancers."

The second sign must read, "WARNING: A person who provides alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age, if convicted under AS 04.16.051, could be imprisoned for up to five years and fined up to \$50,000." The third sign must read, "WARNING: An unaccompanied person under 21 years of age who enters these premises in violation of law may, under AS 04.16.049(e), be civilly liable for damages of \$1,500." The license or permit holder shall display the first and second signs in a manner that would make them conspicuous to a person who will be purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages or smoking cigarettes on the licensed or designated premises and shall conspicuously display the third sign at each door through which customers enter the licensed premises.

* **Sec. 13.** AS 04.09.250(d) is repealed.

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House Bill 68: Sectional Analysis – Version A

January 24, 2025

Section 1. Amends AS 04.09.210(c) - *Restaurant or eating place license*

Allows the board to issue or renew a license if there is supervision on the premises to ensure that those under 21 will not obtain alcoholic beverages except if they are employed per new AS 04.09.049(d).

Section 2. Amends AS 04.09.210(d) - *Restaurant or eating place license*

Authorizes the license holder to employ those aged 16 to 21 years but requires adequate supervision to employees who are 16 or 17 years of age, so they do not obtain alcoholic beverages.

Section 3. Amends AS 04.09.250(c) – *Theater license*

Expands the time period in which a theater license holder may sell or serve alcoholic beverages in designated areas. Removes intermission language.

Section 4. Amends AS 04.09.360(c) – *Seasonal restaurant or eating place tourism license*

Allows the board to issue or renew a license if there is supervision on the premises to ensure that those under 21 will not obtain alcoholic beverages except if they are employed per new AS 04.09.049(d).

Section 5. Amends AS 04.09.360(f) – *Seasonal restaurant or eating place tourism license*

Authorizes the license holder to employ those aged 16 to 21 years but requires adequate supervision to employees who are 16 or 17 years of age, so they do not obtain alcoholic beverages.

Section 6. Amends AS 04.09.450(d) – *Restaurant endorsement*

Allows the board to issue an endorsement if there is supervision on the premises to ensure that those under 21 will not obtain alcoholic beverages except if they are employed per new AS 04.09.049(d).

Section 7. Amends AS 04.09.450(e) – Restaurant endorsement

Authorizes the license holder to employ those aged 16 to 21 years but requires adequate supervision to employees who are 16 or 17 years of age, so they do not obtain alcoholic beverages.

Section 8. Amends AS 04.16.049(d) – *Access of persons under the age of 21 to licensed*

premises: Allows those who are aged 18, 19, or 20 employed by a licensee to serve, sell, deliver, and dispense alcoholic beverages. Adds “and, other than for the business that offers adult entertainment” to ensure that adult entertainment establishments are excluded.

Section 9. Amends AS 04.16.049(h) – *Access of persons under the age of 21 to licensed*

premises: Allows those under the age of 21 to be present on the licensed premises of a theater license holder if the person is at least 16 years of age; if they are under 16, they must be accompanied by a person who is at least 21 years of age, and a parent or legal guardian of the underaged person consents.

Section 10. Amends AS 04.16.052(a) – *Furnishing of alcoholic beverages to persons under*

the age of 21 by licensees: Allows licensees or an agent or employee of the license to allow another person to sell, barter, or give an alcoholic beverage to a person under the age of 21 years only under the provisions in AS 04.16.049(d).

Section 11. Amends 04.21.065(b) – *Posting of warning signs*

Requires that vendors of alcohol replace their sign that reads: “WARNING: Drinking alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine, wine coolers, and distilled spirits or smoking cigarettes during pregnancy can cause birth defects.” with a new sign that reads: “WARNING: Alcohol use during pregnancy can cause birth defects. Alcohol use can cause cancer, including breast and colon cancers.”

Section 12. Amends 04.21.080 – *Definitions*

Adds paragraph (31) to read “business that offers adult entertainment” has the meaning given in AS 23.10.350(f).

Section 13. Repeals AS 04.09.250(d) - *Theater license*

Repeals the provision that prohibits the sale, service, and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the audience viewing area of a theater.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 68
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB068-DCCED-AMCO-01-24-25
Title: ALCOHOL: SALE, WARNING SIGNS
Sponsor: LABOR & COMMERCE
Requester: (H) LABOR & COMMERCE

Department: Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
Appropriation: Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office
Allocation: Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office
OMB Component Number: 3119

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/26

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Lizzie Kubitz, Acting Director
Division: Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office
Approved By: Hannah Lager, Administrative Services Director
Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Phone: (907)269-1004
Date: 01/24/2025
Date: 01/24/25

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 68

Analysis

This bill allows individuals aged 18 through 20 to sell, serve, deliver, or dispense alcoholic beverages on certain licensed premises; removes supervision of individuals aged 18 through 20; and amends the warning sign requirements for alcoholic beverage licensed premises to require the posting of a warning that "Alcohol use can cause cancer, including breast and colon cancers."

If this legislation is adopted, the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) will need to update the online licensing and case management systems and updating regulations. These changes will be incorporated into planned system updates and regulations packages.

AMCO prints required warning signs and provides them to alcoholic beverage licensees. If adopted, this bill would require AMCO to replace existing signs. In addition, AMCO will need to update and notice associated regulations. The cost of these changes will be absorbed within AMCO's existing authority.

The Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office does not anticipate fiscal impact from this legislation.

Jurisdiction	Postal Code	Policies as of	Minimum Age To Serve: Beer	Minimum Age To Serve: Wine	Minimum Age To Serve: Spirits	Minimum Age To Bartend: Beer	Minimum Age To Bartend: Wine	Minimum Age To Bartend: Spirits	Manager or Supervisor Must Be Present
Alabama	AL	1/1/2022	19	19	19	21	21	21	1
Alaska	AK	1/1/2022	21	21	21	21	21	21	0
Arizona	AZ	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Arkansas	AR	1/1/2022	19	19	19	21	21	21	0
California	CA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Colorado	CO	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	1
Connecticut	CT	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Delaware	DE	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
District of Columbia	DC	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Florida	FL	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Georgia	GA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Hawaii	HI	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	1
Idaho	ID	1/1/2022	19	19	19	19	19	19	0
Illinois	IL	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Indiana	IN	1/1/2022	19	19	19	21	21	21	1
Iowa	IA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Kansas	KS	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	1
Kentucky	KY	1/1/2022	20	20	20	20	20	20	0
Louisiana	LA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Maine	ME	1/1/2022	17	17	17	17	17	17	1
Maryland	MD	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	21	0
Massachusetts	MA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Michigan	MI	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Minnesota	MN	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Mississippi	MS	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Missouri	MO	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Montana	MT	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Nebraska	NE	1/1/2022	19	19	19	19	19	19	0
Nevada	NV	1/1/2022	21	21	21	21	21	21	0
New Hampshire	NH	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
New Jersey	NJ	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
New Mexico	NM	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
New York	NY	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
North Carolina	NC	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	21	0
North Dakota	ND	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	1
Ohio	OH	1/1/2022	19	19	19	19	21	21	0
Oklahoma	OK	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Oregon	OR	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Pennsylvania	PA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Rhode Island	RI	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
South Carolina	SC	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
South Dakota	SD	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Tennessee	TN	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Texas	TX	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Utah	UT	1/1/2022	21	21	21	21	21	21	0
Vermont	VT	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Virginia	VA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
Washington	WA	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	1
West Virginia	WV	1/1/2022	16	16	16	16	16	16	1
Wisconsin	WI	1/1/2022	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Wyoming	WY	1/1/2022	18	18	18	21	21	21	0
United States	US	1/1/2022							0

18/21	14
18/18	23
19/21	2
19/19	2
16 or 17	2
20	1
19 or 19/21 blend	3
total	50