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HB 182: Brewery, Winery, and Distillery Events

Sponsor Statement

4/15/2025

House Bill 182 removes duplicative requirements for licensed breweries, wineries and distilleries to host up to four live-music or entertainment events in their spaces each year.

In 2022 the 32nd Legislature passed SB 9, which revised Title 4, which contains Alaska's alcohol laws. Prior to SB 9, breweries, wineries and distilleries were prohibited from holding events, such as live music in their spaces – but under the revised Title 4 they are now allowed to host up to four events each calendar year so long as they obtain a *live-music or event permit* (a type of alcohol permit).

The permit process predates SB 9 and was intended for one-off events such as non-profit fundraisers or weddings. To obtain any alcohol permit, an entity is required to apply to the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO), receive approval from local government and law enforcement agencies, show a premise diagram, server lists, and pay fees. The requirements are designed to ensure the event manager has plans and safety measures in place to serve alcohol at non-licensed locations.

Compare this to a brewery, winery, or distillery, which are required to obtain a *manufacturing license*. To also engage in on-site consumption, the licensing process requires them to demonstrate a plan to serve alcohol safely to a consumer. The application process to obtain a license is as stringent as that to apply for a permit. Thus, to hold any of their four events, licensed manufacturers need to obtain a separate permit to demonstrate again what they have already demonstrated obtaining their underlying license.

The process for applying for an event permit is redundant for manufacturers, creating burdensome regulatory hurdles that inconvenience both manufacturers and the state. HB 182 acknowledges comprehensive requirements to obtain a license endorses manufacturers ability to adhere to the same safety requirements in the permit.