

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 159

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

AN ACT

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF  
SPECIAL INDEPENDENT THEATER DISPENSING LICENSES FOR BEER AND  
WINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Liquor Control Act is  
enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ SPECIAL INDEPENDENT THEATER DISPENSING  
LICENSE--FEES--LIMITATIONS.--

A. The director may issue a special independent  
theater dispensing license to an owner or operator of an  
independent theater in accordance with rules promulgated by the  
director to protect public health and safety. The license  
shall be limited to the serving of wine and beer to customers  
of the independent theater in conjunction with that independent

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1 theater's movie screenings or other events.

2 B. An independent theater may apply for a special  
3 independent theater dispensing license. The license shall  
4 allow an owner, operator or employee of an independent theater  
5 who holds a server permit to dispense only wine or beer to  
6 customers of the independent theater in conjunction with movie  
7 screenings or other events on the premises of the independent  
8 theater.

9 C. The issuance of a special independent theater  
10 dispensing license shall be contingent on the approval of the  
11 governing body or local option district of the jurisdiction in  
12 which the independent theater is domiciled.

13 D. Service of beer or wine to customers of an  
14 independent theater shall be limited to two twelve-ounce  
15 servings of beer or two six-ounce servings of wine per customer  
16 for each event.

17 E. A special independent theater dispensing license  
18 shall not be transferable from person to person or from one  
19 location to another.

20 F. An owner, operator or employee of an independent  
21 theater who holds a server permit shall comply with the  
22 provisions of Chapter 60, Article 6E NMSA 1978.

23 G. As used in this section, "independent theater"  
24 means a business establishment that:

25 (1) is operated primarily for the purpose of

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1 exhibiting movies or hosting live productions and events;

2 (2) is in a single location;

3 (3) is owned and operated by a New Mexico  
4 resident or is a business or organization registered in New  
5 Mexico; and

6 (4) has been in existence for at least one  
7 year."

8 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
9 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.

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