

1 SENATE BILL 159

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Leo Jaramillo

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10 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

20 A. The director may issue a special independent
21 theater dispensing license to an owner or operator of an
22 independent theater in accordance with rules promulgated by the
23 director to protect public health and safety. The license
24 shall be limited to the serving of wine and beer to customers
25 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 by submitting to the
4 department a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) and any
5 information the director may require. A license shall be valid
6 for one year from the date that it is issued and may be renewed
7 for a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100). The license shall
8 allow an owner, operator or employee of an independent theater
9 who holds a server permit to dispense only wine or beer to
10 customers of the independent theater in conjunction with movie
11 screenings or other events on the premises of the independent
12 theater.

13 C. The issuance of a special independent theater
14 dispensing license shall be contingent on the approval of the
15 governing body or local option district of the jurisdiction in
16 which the independent theater is domiciled.

17 D. Service of beer or wine with food to customers
18 of an independent theater shall be limited to two twelve-ounce
19 servings of beer or two six-ounce servings of wine per customer
20 for each event.

21 E. A special independent theater dispensing license
22 shall not be transferable from person to person or from one
23 location to another.

24 F. An owner, operator or employee of an independent
25 theater who holds a server permit shall comply with the

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1 provisions of Chapter 60, Article 6E NMSA 1978.

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

4 (1) is operated primarily for the purpose of
5 exhibiting movies and hosting events;

6 (2) is in a single location;

7 (3) is owned and operated by a New Mexico
8 resident or is a business or organization registered in New
9 Mexico; and

10 (4) has been in existence for at least one
11 year."

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