



### **Bill 15: The Liquor Control and Licensing Amendment Act, 2014**

During the current sitting of the Legislature, government passed a number of changes to the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (LCLA).

Some of the changes took effect on May 29, 2014, when the bill received Royal Assent. However, the majority of changes will not come into effect until the regulations are drafted.

The following changes took effect upon Royal Assent (see accompanying policy directives for more detail):

- Licensee retail stores, wine stores, liquor primary and food primary establishments may store liquor off-site, and the process for manufacturers to store liquor off-site has been streamlined.
- Government has reduced the number of occurrences whereby people are required to have a grain alcohol permit before buying ethyl alcohol for non-beverage use.

The following changes will require regulations before coming into force:

- Allowing liquor sales in grocery stores.
- Allowing happy hours, provided prices do not go below a prescribed minimum price.
- Permitting sales of wine, beer and spirits at off-site retail locations such as farmers' markets.
- Allowing patrons to buy bottles of liquor to take home that are showcased at festivals or competitions.
- Streamlining the process for facilities such as ski hills and golf courses to temporarily extend their licensed area to another part of the property (e.g., a patio near a ski-hill gondola lift or a temporary patio near a golf clubhouse).
- Allowing wineries, breweries and distilleries to set up low-risk tasting venues at their manufacturing site for on-premise consumption without having to apply.

- Permitting wineries, breweries and distilleries to offer patrons liquor products that they did not produce.
- Expanding Serving It Right (SIR) so that sales and service staff in restaurants, wine stores, Rural Agency Stores and BC Liquor Stores must obtain certification and recertify after a period of time.
- Allowing hosts to serve UBrew/UVin or homemade beer at family Special Occasion Licence events.
- Allowing the LCLB to require that all licensed establishments and liquor stores post social responsibility public education materials, and that the LCLB work with industry on the development of these.
- Providing authority for the LCLB General Manager to consider how different types of penalties may impact a licensee and staff.
- Improving the licence transfer process so that a buyer can operate an establishment while the licence transfer is going through, and be responsible for any contraventions that happen during this time.
- Giving inspectors the authority to ask patrons and staff for identification.
- Giving police and liquor inspectors the ability to cancel a Special Occasion Licence if they have concerns about public safety.

The following does not require its own regulation, but will be brought into force when sec. 38 of the LCLA is brought into force:

- Allowing individual establishments to transfer small amounts of liquor between locations.

For all those changes that require regulations before coming into force, work is proceeding and more information will be available in the coming weeks. You may link to Bill 15 [here](#).

For more information please contact Barry Bieller at [Barry.Bieller@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Barry.Bieller@gov.bc.ca)