



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1132

entertainment districts; liquor; location restrictions

Purpose

Expands the entertainment district exemption in regards to liquor license distance restrictions to include all public or private schools.

Background

In order to regulate the production, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages, the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (DLLC) issues 17 license types, commonly referred to by a series number. An application is required for any of the licenses along with payment of the required fee and surcharges, when applicable. Licenses must be renewed annually. A license is issued only after satisfactory showing of the capability, qualifications and reliability of the applicant and, with the exception of club licensees, that the public convenience requires and that the best interest of the community will be substantially served by the issuance of the license. Currently, a separate license is required for each specific type of business.

Retail liquor licenses are prohibited from being issued if the retail premises, at the time of the original application, are within 300 horizontal feet of a church, school or a fenced recreational area adjacent to a school. This prohibition does not apply to a restaurant license, special event license, hotel-motel license, government license or the fenced playing area of a golf course (A.R.S. § 4-207).

The prohibition also does not apply to entertainment districts in certain instances. "Entertainment district" means a specific contiguous area that is designated an entertainment district by a resolution adopted by the governing body of a city or town, that consists of no more than one square mile, that is no less than one-eighth of a mile in width and that contains a significant number of entertainment, artistic and cultural venues, including music halls, concert facilities, theaters, arenas, stadiums, museums, studios, galleries, restaurants, bars and other related facilities (A.R.S. § 4-207). The governing body of a city or town may approve an exemption from the liquor licensing distance restrictions for a church or charter school that is located in an area that is designated as an entertainment district on a case-by-case basis.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund as a result of this legislation.

Provisions

1. Expands the liquor license distance restriction exemption for entertainment districts to include all public or private schools.

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2. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

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