

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB186

Hearing Date: Monday February 03, 2025
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: Dover
One Liner: Change provisions relating to entertainment districts under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Holdcroft, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Clouse, DeKay, Quick, Rountree, Storm
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Robert Dover
Danielle Myers-Noelle
Christy Abraham
Josh Eickmeier
Angie Stenger
Traci Jeffrey

Representing:

Opening Presenter
City of Norfolk
League of Nebraska Municipalities
Mayor of Seward, NE
Growing Together Northeast Nebraska
Visit Norfolk and Nebraska Travel Association

Opponents:

Hobert Rupe

Representing:

Nebraska Liquor Control Commission

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 186 amends section 53-123.17 of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, pertaining to entertainment district licenses. The bill stipulates that the consumption of alcoholic liquor in designated commons areas within entertainment districts is only permitted during the hours authorized for on-premise alcohol sales and when food service is available in the commons area or is offered for sale by at least one entertainment district license holder. The bill also changes the meaning of commons area so that there are separate definitions for cities of the primary class or a city of the metropolitan class compared to a city of the first class, a city of the second class, a village, or the unincorporated portion of a county. Finally, the bill contains an emergency clause.

SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY



Section 1: Amends various subsections within 53-123.17 by adding new language to subsection two, stating at least one holder of an entertainment district license to make food service available for sale in the commons area of a licensed entertainment district.

Subsection three clears up a grammatical error.

Subsection eleven separates the definition of "Commons Area" into two subdivisions, by subdivision A, a primary class or a city of the metropolitan area and by a new subdivision B, a city of the first class, a city of the second class, a village, or the unincorporated portion of a county.

Subdivision A retains the original definition of commons area, that is:

- (I) Within an entertainment district designated by a local governing body;
- (II) Shared by authorized licensees with entertainment district licenses;
- (III) Abutting the licensed premises of such licensees;
- (IV) Having limited pedestrian accessibility by use of a physical barrier, either on a permanent or temporary basis; and
- (V) Closed to vehicular traffic when used as a commons area.

The new subdivision B includes language, defining a commons area as:

- (I) Within an entertainment district designated by a local governing body;
- (II) Shared by authorized licensees with entertainment district licenses;
- (III) Abutting the licensed premises of such licensees; and
- (IV) An area with reasonable safety measures in place to protect pedestrians, including signage, lighting, reduced motor vehicle speeds when motor vehicles will be in close proximity to pedestrians, and
- (V) A prohibition on carrying open alcoholic liquor containers and consuming alcoholic liquor on any open street or highway except when necessary to cross the open street or highway at a designated crosswalk.

Section 2: Repealer.

Section 3: Emergency clause.

Rick Holdcroft, Chairperson

