

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1447 City of Orlando, Orange County
SPONSOR(S): Miller
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Renner	Miller
2) Careers & Competition Subcommittee	15 Y, 0 N	Brackett	Anstead
3) Government Accountability Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida's Beverage Law places a limit on the number of "quota licenses" that the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) may issue per county. A quota license allows a business to serve any alcoholic beverage regardless of alcoholic content, including liquor, for both on and off premises consumption. DBPR is not limited by the Beverage Law on the number of licenses it may issue for businesses who wish to serve only malt beverages and wine.

In excess of the quota limitation, DBPR is authorized to issue an SRX license, which allows a restaurant to sell any alcoholic beverage, including liquor, under certain circumstances. Under general law, a restaurant may be issued an SRX license if it has at least 2,500 square feet of service area, is equipped to serve meals to 150 customers simultaneously, and derives at least 51 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of food and non-alcoholic beverages.

The bill would create an exception to general law by requiring DBPR to issue an SRX license to a bona fide restaurant in the "Downtown Restaurant Area" of the City of Orlando that is licensed by DBPR and meets the following requirements: occupies at least 1,800 square feet of contiguous space, is equipped to serve meals to at least 80 persons at one time, and derives at least 51 percent of its gross food and beverage revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages during the first 60-day operating period and each 12-month operating period thereafter.

The bill provides that failure of a licensee who is issued an SRX license to meet the 51 percentage of food and nonalcoholic beverage gross revenue during the covered operating period will result in the revocation of the license or denial of the pending application for a permanent license of a licensee operating with a temporary license. A licensee whose license is revoked, or an applicant whose pending application for a permanent license is denied, or any person required to qualify on the SRX license application, is ineligible to have any interest in a subsequent license application for a period of 120 days after the date of the final denial or revocation.

According to the Economic Impact Statement, the bill is revenue positive due to the increase in sales tax revenue and licensing revenue.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

Pursuant to House Rules 5.5(b), a local bill providing an exemption from general law may not be placed on the Special Order Calendar for expedited consideration. Since this bill creates an exemption to general law, the provisions of House Rule 5.5(b) apply.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Alcoholic Beverage Licensing

The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is responsible for regulating the conduct, management, and operation of the manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and sale within the state of alcoholic beverages. Chapters 561-565 and 567-568, F.S., comprise Florida's Beverage Law.

Under the Beverage Law, DBPR is not limited on the number of licenses it issues to businesses who wish to sell malt beverages or wine; however s. 561.20, F.S., limits the number of licenses that may be issued under s. 565.02(1)(a)-(f), F.S., to one license per 7,500 residents per county with a minimum of three (3) licenses per county that has approved the sale of intoxicating liquors.¹ This license, often referred to as a "quota license," allows a business to sell any alcoholic beverage regardless of alcoholic content, including liquor or distilled spirits.²

There are several exceptions to the quota license limitation. Businesses that meet the requirements set out in one of the exceptions pursuant to s. 561.20(2), F.S., may be issued a special license by DBPR that allows the business to serve any alcoholic beverages regardless of alcoholic content.

One such license is the Special Restaurant Beverage (SRX) license, which may be issued to a "restaurant having 2,500 square feet of service area and equipped to serve meals to 150 persons at one time, and derives at least 51 percent of its gross food and beverage revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages so long as any alcoholic beverages sold under such license is for on premises consumption only."³ Some older restaurants may qualify at a lower total gross revenue threshold.⁴ A restaurant must offer full course meal service at any time alcoholic beverages are being served to qualify for a license.⁵ A full course meal must contain a salad or vegetable, entrée, beverage, and bread.⁶

Effect of the Bill

The bill would create an exception to s. 561.20(1), F.S., by requiring DBPR to issue an SRX license to a bona fide restaurant in the "Downtown Restaurant Area" of the City of Orlando that is licensed by DBPR and occupies at least 1,800 square feet of contiguous space, is equipped to serve meals to at least 80 persons at one time, and derives at least 51 percent of its gross food and beverage revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages during the first 60-day operating period and each 12-month operating period thereafter. The bill includes a complete legal description of the area in which the exemption will apply.

¹ s. 561.20(1), F.S.

² s. 565.02, F.S.

³ s. 561.20(2)(a)4., F.S. Current law requires the gross food and beverage revenue to be based on the first 60-day operating period and each 12-month operating period thereafter.

⁴ Rule 61A-3.0141, F.A.C. This provision applies to all licenses issued after April 18, 1972. For licenses issued between September 1, 1969 and April 18, 1972, at least 30 percent of the restaurant's total gross revenue must be derived from the sale of food and non-alcoholic beverages; for licenses issued prior to September 1, 1969, there is no minimum gross revenue threshold, but the restaurant must be "bona fide" and meet the other requirements of the rule.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

The bill provides that failure of a licensee who is issued an SRX license to meet the 51 percentage of food and nonalcoholic beverage gross revenue during the covered operating period will result in the revocation of the license or denial of the pending application for a permanent license of a licensee operating with a temporary license. A licensee whose license is revoked, or an applicant whose pending application for a permanent license is denied, or any person required to qualify on the SRX license application, is ineligible to have any interest in a subsequent license application for a period of 120 days after the date of the final denial or revocation.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 Creates the "Downtown Restaurant Area" in the City of Orlando.

Section 2 Creates an exception to general law, providing space, seating and minimum gross revenues requirements for special alcoholic beverage licenses for restaurants in the Downtown Restaurant Area.

Section 3 Provides that the bill takes effect upon becoming law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? October 25, 2017

WHERE? *Orlando Sentinel*, a daily newspaper published in Orange County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached No

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill neither authorizes nor requires administrative rulemaking by executive branch agencies.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Pursuant to House Rules 5.5(b), a local bill providing an exemption from general law may not be placed on the Special Order Calendar for expedited consideration. Since this bill creates an exemption to general law, the provisions of House Rule 5.5(b) apply.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES