



Bill Title: VIP Airport Lounge Liquor License
Bill Number: SSB 5156
Effective Date: July 22, 2011
New Section: RCW 66.24
Amends: RCW 66.04
Interim Policy: [BIP-04-2011](#)

Background:

The new section creates a license for a VIP Airport Lounge to sell or otherwise provide spirits, beer, and wine solely for consumption on the premises of the VIP airport lounge. Amends RCW 66.04.010 by adding definitions for:

- VIP Airport Lounge;
- VIP Airport Lounge Operator; and
- Service Bar

Summary:

Requirements for a VIP airport lounge liquor license:

- The lounge is an establishment in an international airport, beyond security checkpoints.
- The licensee is allowed to sell or provide complimentary spirits, wine, or beer by the individual serving for consumption on the VIP airport lounge premises to people at least 21 years of age.
- Spirits must be purchased from the licensee's assigned liquor store. Beer and wine must be purchased from a local distributor or retail outlet. A licensee may purchase wine directly from the manufacturer if the licensee holds an endorsement to purchase wine directly from the manufacturer.
- The lounge licensee may only serve liquor from a service bar. A service bar is a work station primarily used to prepare and sell alcoholic beverages that are picked up by customers. Customers are not permitted to sit and consume food or alcohol at a service bar.
- Alcohol servers must have a valid MAST permit.
- The entity holding the lounge liquor license must be the entity in control of the day-to-day operations of the lounge.

Access to a VIP airport lounge is generally limited to:

- ticketed airline passengers of any age who have a first class, executive, or business class ticket;
- qualified members or guests of loyalty incentive programs;
- members or guests of enhanced amenities programs;
- passengers or airline employees issued a pass by the airline for access; and
- airport, airline employees, government officials and attendees of airport authority or airlines for business promotion with controlled access by the VIP airport lounge licensee.

How to Apply:

Complete a Master Business Application and Liquor Control Board Addendum. Information can be found on the WSLCB website at www.liq.wa.gov.

When the WSLCB Licensing Division receives the application:

- A liquor license investigator will be assigned to the application.
- The investigator will contact the applicant to conduct an interview and send the applicant a request for documents needed to process the application (the applicant has 15 days to return documents). The applicant will also be directed to complete a Licensee Briefing and to call their local liquor agent to schedule a final inspection of the premises.
- A notice will be sent to the local authority for comment (20-day period).
- A public posting notice will be sent to the local liquor enforcement office to be posted at the retail premises (must be posted for 14 days).
- When all documents are received, the licensee briefing is complete, the final inspection is complete, and the investigation is complete, the applicant will receive a letter from the WSLCB Licensing Division with either a conditional approval or approval of the liquor license.
- When the license is approved the licensee should receive a Master License from Master License Service within 14 days.

Contact Information

For specific questions, please contact Customer Service, at 360-664-1600 or www.liq.wa.gov.