

DC HOSPITALITY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2026

The bill amends D.C. Official Code Title 25 to modernize DC's alcohol laws, provides support to DC's hospitality industry, and makes permanent several business practices that evolved due to the pandemic.

<p>EXPANDS SUPPORT TOOLS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the hospitality industry in Wards 5, 7 and 8 and downtown by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiving application and licensing fees for new art galleries and bookstores for the first three (3) years. • Creating new pop up and permanent restaurant alcohol license types that allows restaurants to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption and wine and beer for off-premises consumption without being accompanied by a food item. • Allowing existing breweries to open a new brew pub. Currently, breweries are not permitted to own a brew pub in DC.
<p>BOOSTS MADE IN DC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports local businesses in expanding their brand, product lines, and market share by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the variety of DC-made alcohol products that can be sold for on-premises consumption at breweries, distilleries, and wineries. • Allowing manufacturers to manufacture and store alcohol at a second location under their existing license within 1,800 feet of their initial location. • Permitting distillery collaborations. Currently, spirit collaborations between two (2) distilleries are not permitted.
<p>ACTIVATES PUBLIC SPACES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a new license type for Business Improvement Districts to sell, serve, and permit the consumption of alcohol on registered outdoor public spaces under the control of District Government. • Enables DC sports venues to obtain a Commercial Lifestyle license to sell alcoholic beverages in outdoor public spaces during special events requiring a street closure.
<p>OPENS DOORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forges new pathways into the alcohol and hospitality industries for underrepresented groups by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing barriers for returning citizens to work at and own alcohol venues. • Creating a new contract brewing license to allow applicants to enter into a written contract to partner with an existing brewery or brew pub.
<p>REMOVES BURDENS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates excessive restrictions and helps businesses overcome staffing shortages including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding DC's doggie bag provision to include malt beverages and permitting taverns to allow patrons to take unfinished alcohol in doggy bags. Currently, DC's doggie bag provisions only apply to wine and spirits and are limited to restaurants and hotels. • Allowing persons 17 years of age that complete alcohol training to sell and deliver alcohol to patrons at a restaurant, hotel, or tavern, that are not seated or standing at a bar. Currently, a person must be 18 years of age to sell and deliver alcohol to patrons.
<p>EXTENDS HOURS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows venues to host residents and visitors alike during notable events and holidays by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the Extended Holiday Hour Program to include Juneteenth National Independence Day weekend.