



News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
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June 25, 2021

Cocktails-to-go becomes permanent hospitality industry offering Craft brewing industry discusses re-opening challenges

Commissioners respond to legislative changes, begin rulemaking

PORTLAND, OR. – At its regular monthly meeting on June 17, 2021, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission took action to finalize rules allowing cocktails-to-go and initiated rulemaking to implement other legislation passed during the 2021 session. Commissioners also heard testimony from the Oregon Brewers Guild about challenges faced by the industry due to COVID and the difficulties in adequately staffing operations.

During the past year, the OLCC worked with the Oregon hospitality industry, public health & safety partners and the Oregon legislature to resolve issues surrounding cocktails-to-go. In December of 2021, the Oregon legislature approved legislation, and the OLCC passed rules, temporarily enabling bars and restaurants to sell cocktails-to-go, providing the industry a business lifeline of business during the pandemic. Recently the 2021 Oregon legislature made the drinks-to-go privilege permanent.

Oregon's craft brewing industry has also been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing a decline in sales measured nationally as a loss of more than nine percent in annual sales. Oregon lost approximately 3,000 brewing industry jobs mostly from tap rooms and brew pubs. However, as Oregonians continue to receive vaccinations and Oregon readies to re-open, brewers are facing a new challenge – finding employees to hire. Even with offers of higher wages and signing bonuses some businesses haven't been able to meet staffing levels that allow them to operate at their pre-COVID levels.

An industry advocate provided some insight into the difficulties faced by the industry. "It's difficult to ask someone to come back to work with this uncertainty of whether or not you're going to have work for them," said Christina LaRue, Director of the Oregon Brewer's Guild. "There are breweries, brewpubs, tasting rooms and restaurants alike that just don't have the staff to be open seven days a week."

Commissioner Kiauna Floyd, herself a restaurant owner-operator acknowledged the hiring difficulties and agreed that she has also heard of these issues from other bar and restaurant operators.

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June 25, 2021
OLCC Commission Meeting - Alcohol

As the legislative session creeps closer to completion, Commissioners approved starting agency rulemaking to address statutory changes approved by the legislative issues; they also finalized rulemaking for mediation processes affecting contested cases.

Commissioners also approved a restricted alcohol service permit allowing the applicant to work only for their current employer, due to a history of felony drug convictions. The Commission approved the restricted permit based on evidence that the applicant is actively participating in addiction treatment.

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A copy of the Stipulated Settlement Agreements for Alcohol Violation Cases can be found on the [OLCC website](#), on the Laws & Rules page under the [Final Orders](#) section.

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