

Subject Off-sale licenses for food retailers authorized

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Overview

H.F. 1597 allows a municipality to issue an off-sale intoxicating liquor license to food retailers such as grocery and convenience stores. Under the bill, food retailers would only be allowed to sell beer and wine.

In addition, the bill clarifies that certain restrictions placed on the issuance of off-sale licenses do not apply to licenses issued to food retailers. Current law limits municipalities from issuing off-sale licenses to more than one person or place, and places a cap on the total number of off-sale licenses that may be issued by a city of the first class. H.F. 1597 does not apply these restrictions to licenses issued to food retailers.

Lastly, the bill prohibits a municipality from barring entry by a person who is under 21 years of age to a food retailer holding an off-sale license.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Food retailed (definition).
Defines “food retailer” as a for-profit, not-for-profit, or cooperative self-service retail establishment that sells a variety of foods and household goods, and specifically includes both supermarkets, grocery stores, corner stores, and convenience stores in the definition. |
| 2 | Cities (authority to issue license).
Authorizes a city of any class to issue an off-sale intoxicating liquor license to a food retailer. Also allows a city that owns a municipal liquor store to issue this license to a food retailer with the approval of the commissioner of public safety. |

Section	Description
3	Limitations on issuance of licenses to one person or place. Allows a municipality to issue more than one off-sale intoxicating liquor license to a food retailer.
4	Food retailers (authorized liquor sales). Limits the types of liquor that may be sold by a food retailer under an off-sale license to beer and wine.
5	Off-sale licenses (limit on total issuance). Provides an exception to the per capita off-sale license limit for food retailers.
6	Entering licensed premises. Prohibits a municipality from restricting entry to a food retailer holding an off-sale license.



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