STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

4TH CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 1118

By: Easley and Bastin of the House

and

Easley of the Senate

4TH CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to intoxicating liquors; amending 37 O.S. 1991, Section 163.11, as last amended by Section 1 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2113 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature, which relates to low-point beer retail sales permits; modifying eligibility for permit; providing that convicted felons are not eligible for permits, with exceptions; amending 37 O.S. 1991, Sections 246, as amended by Section 43, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 1995, 537, as amended by Section 15, Chapter 361, O.S.L. 1994, and 598, as amended by Section 47, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 1995 (37 O.S. Supp. 1996, Sections 246, 537 and 598), which relate to prohibited acts pertaining to low-point beer and alcoholic beverages; modifying prohibition and preventing certain persons from being admitted to separate bar areas; providing that admission charges shall not be part of calculation of main purpose; defining term; providing exceptions; providing for restrictive designation for certain licensed premises; authorizing employment of certain musical bands; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 37 O.S. 1991, Section 163.11, as last amended by Section 1 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2113 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature, is amended to read as follows:

Section 163.11 A. It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain or operate any place where low-point beer, as herein defined, is sold for consumption on or off the premises without first securing a permit issued by the district court clerk of the county in which the premises are located.

B. 1. The person applying for a permit must make a showing every three (3) years, and must satisfy the district court clerk that he or she is a person of good moral character and that he or she has never been convicted of violating any of the laws prohibiting the traffic in any spirituous, vinous, fermented or malt liquors, or of any of the gambling laws of this state, or of any other state of the United States, within three (3) years immediately preceding the date of his or her petition, or any of the laws commonly called "Prohibition Laws", or had any permit or license to sell low-point beer revoked in any county of this state within twelve (12) months.

2. A person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be eligible for a permit unless the person received a pardon for the felony or a period of ten (10) years has elapsed since the completion of the sentence imposed for the felony.

C. No permit shall be issued to sell low-point beer for on-premises consumption unless the person applying for such permit shall have signed an affidavit stating that the location of the building in which low-point beer is to be sold is not prohibited by the provisions of Section 163.24 of this title.

D. A fee of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) shall be charged for the issuance or renewal of such three-year permit, which fee shall be deposited in the county court fund, in addition to other fees required by law.

E. Upon petition being filed, the district court clerk shall give fifteen (15) days' notice for an initial application, and it is the applicant's responsibility to cause the same to be posted by the entrance on the front of the building in which said low-point beer is to be sold and to file proof of posting in such case; and a copy of said notice shall also be mailed to the district attorney, the sheriff and the chief of police or marshal of any city or town in which said business is to be operated. Said notice shall contain the name of the applicant and the location of said place of business. The initial permit shall be valid for a period of three (3) years and shall expire if not renewed with proper showing required by subsection B of this

section, and upon payment of proper fees. A permit may be renewed within ten (10) days of expiration, upon proper application pursuant to subsection B of this section and payment of the proper fees, but without the payment of any late fees. Provided, however, that if a proper application under subsection B of this section is filed within eleven (11) days but not more than thirty (30) days after the expiration date of the permit, upon payment of a fee of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) in addition to the initial permit fee, the court clerk is authorized to treat said application as one for renewal and to issue a renewal permit to the applicant, if all requirements have otherwise been met by the applicant. A renewal permit granted during the thirty-day grace period shall become effective upon the date of its issuance by the court clerk.

F. A permit issued prior to September 1, 1994, shall be valid until it expires and shall be renewed for a period of three (3) years or until expiration of the sales tax permit issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, if any, held by the person at the time of such renewal, whichever is earlier. The manner and prorated fee for renewals of less than three (3) years shall be prescribed by the court clerk.

G. A person who has obtained a permit pursuant to this section and who ceases to maintain or operate any place where low-point beer is sold for consumption on or off the premises shall be entitled to receive a refund of the permit fee from the district court clerk prorated with respect to the amount of time remaining until expiration of the permit. The manner and prorated refund shall be prescribed by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

H. If there are no protests and the petition is sufficient on its face, then said permit shall be granted by the district court clerk. Provided, that if any citizen of the county files a written protest setting forth objections, then the district court clerk shall advise the chief judge who shall assign such petition to a district judge or associate district judge for hearing.

I. The application for such permit must be verified and in writing, contain the information above required, and must be set for hearing on a date named in the notice required to be posted.

J. All testimony before the district court shall be under oath.

K. A judge of the district court, upon five (5) days' notice to the person holding such permit, shall revoke such permit for any one of the following reasons:

1. Drunkenness of the person holding such permit or permitting any intoxicated person to loiter in or around his or her place of business;

2. Person under the influence of drugs holding such permit or permitting any drugged person to loiter in or around his or her place of business;

3. The sale to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age of low-point beer;

4. Permitting persons under the age of twenty-one (21) in a separate or enclosed bar area which has as its main purpose the selling or serving of low-point beer for consumption on the premises unless said person's parent or legal guardian is present, in violation of the provisions of Sections 241 through 246 of this title;

5. Nonpayment of any of the taxes or license fees imposed by the provisions of Section 163.1 et seq. of this title on complaint of the Oklahoma Tax Commission;

6. Violating any of the laws of the state commonly called "Prohibition Laws" or violating any of the gambling laws of the state or permitting anyone to violate any of said laws in such places or violating any of the provisions of Section 163.1 et seq. of this title;

7. Conviction for the violation of any of the laws of this state or the United States for the sale or possession of intoxicating liquors within three (3) years immediately preceding the issuance of such dealer's license; or

8. Violating any law pertaining to the use, possession, or sale of drugs or narcotics or the violation of the narcotics laws of the State of Oklahoma or the United States.

L. After the revocation of any such permit, for any of the above reasons, except paragraph 5 of subsection K of this section for nonpayment of taxes, or license fees, no new permit shall be issued to the same person for the same location or premises prior to the expiration of a period of one (1) year from the date of such revocation.

M. On or before the tenth day of each month each district court clerk shall file with the Oklahoma Tax Commission, on forms prescribed and furnished by the Commission, a report showing the name, address, and county permit number of each such person to whom a county permit has been issued or whose permit has been revoked, or who shall have been refused a county permit, during the previous calendar month. In case of the revocation of a permit by a judge of the district court, the district court clerk shall within five (5) days report such action to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. If county permits shall have been issued, revoked or refused during the month, the district court clerk shall make a report accordingly to the Commission.

N. Upon application to and approval by the court clerk of the district court, a retail dealer as defined by Section 163.2 of this title who meets the requirements of this section and Section 163.11a of this title may be granted a special event permit without the requirement of notice or posting, after payment of a fee of Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) in addition to other fees required by law, which fees shall not be refundable or apportionable. A special event permit issued under this subsection shall authorize the holder thereof to sell and distribute low-point beer for a period not to exceed ten (10) consecutive days from the date of issuance. A separate permit shall be required for each individual place of business, whether permanent or a temporary assemblage. A special event permit shall not be renewable.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 37 O.S. 1991, Section 246, as amended by Section 43, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 1995 (37 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 246), is amended to read as follows:

Section 246. A. No person under twenty-one (21) years of age shall consume or possess with the intent to consume low-point beer, as defined in Section 163.2 of this title, in any public place. It shall be unlawful for any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to purchase or attempt to purchase low-point beer, as defined in Section 163.2 of this title, except under supervision of law enforcement officers. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty, upon conviction, of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not to exceed One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) or by appropriate community service not to exceed twenty (20) hours. Provided, the provisions of this section shall not apply when such persons are under the direct supervision of their parent or guardian, but in no instance shall this exception be interpreted to allow such persons to consume such beverages in any place licensed to dispense low-point beer as provided in Section 163.11 of this title.

B. If the premises of a holder of a license to sell low-point beer contains a separate or enclosed bar area which has as its main purpose the sale or serving of low-point beer for consumption on the premises, no person under twenty-one (21) years of age shall enter, attempt to enter, or remain in said area. The provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit persons under twenty-one (21) years of age from entering or remaining in an area which has as its main purpose some objective other than the sale or serving of low-point beer, in which sales or serving of said beverages are incidental to the main purpose, if the persons under twenty-one (21) years of age are not sold or served or do not consume low-point beer anywhere on the premises; however, the incidental service of food in the bar area shall not exempt persons under twenty-one (21) years of age from the provisions of this subsection. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not to exceed One Hundred Dollars ($100.00).

C. Except as otherwise provided, an admission charge shall not be considered in any calculation designed to determine the main purpose of an area pursuant to subsection B of this section. For purposes of this section, an "admission charge" shall mean any form of consideration received by an establishment from a person in order for that person to gain entry into the establishment or an area thereof.

D. The provisions of subsection C of this section shall not apply:

1. If only persons eighteen (18) years of age or older are permitted to enter the licensed premises;

2. If the licensed premises are owned or operated by a service organization or fraternal establishment which is exempt under Section 501(c)(19), (8), or (10) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

3. To a public event held in a facility owned or operated by any agency, political subdivision or public trust of this state.

D. A violation of the provisions of this section shall not be a basis for instituting juvenile proceedings to determine if a person under eighteen (18) years of age is a delinquent child; however, if a person under eighteen (18) years of age habitually violates the provisions of this section, juvenile proceedings may be brought to determine if the person is a delinquent child. A person under eighteen (18) years of age who has been convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalty provisions provided in this section.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 37 O.S. 1991, Section 537, as amended by Section 15, Chapter 361, O.S.L. 1994 (37 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 537), is amended to read as follows:

Section 537. A. No person shall:

1. Knowingly sell, deliver, or furnish alcoholic beverages to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age;

2. Sell, deliver or knowingly furnish alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person or to any person who has been adjudged insane or mentally deficient;

3. Open a retail container or consume alcoholic beverages on the premises of a retail package store;

4. Import into this state, except as provided for in the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, any alcoholic beverages; provided, that nothing herein shall prohibit the importation or possession for personal use of not more than one (1) liter of alcoholic beverages upon which the Oklahoma excise tax is delinquent;

5. Receive, possess, or use any alcoholic beverage in violation of the provisions of the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act;

6. Transport into, within, or through this state more than one (1) liter of alcoholic beverages upon which the Oklahoma excise tax has not been paid unless the person accompanying or in charge of the vehicle transporting same shall have in his possession a true copy of a bill of lading, invoice, manifest or other document particularly identifying the alcoholic beverages being transported and showing the name and address of the consignor and consignee;

7. Knowingly transport in any vehicle upon a public highway, street or alley any alcoholic beverage except in the original container which shall not have been opened and the seal upon which shall not have been broken and from which the original cap or cork shall not have been removed, unless the opened container be in the rear trunk or rear compartment, which shall include the spare tire compartment in a vehicle commonly known as a station wagon and panel truck, or any outside compartment which is not accessible to the driver or any other person in said vehicle while it is in motion;

8. Drink intoxicating liquor in public except on the premises of a licensee of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission who is authorized to sell or serve alcoholic beverages by the individual drink or be intoxicated in a public place. This provision shall be cumulative and in addition to existing law;

9. Forcibly resist lawful arrest, or by physical contact interfere with an investigation of any infringement of the

Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act or with any lawful search or seizure being made by an inspector or agent of the ABLE Commission, when such person knows or should know that such acts are being performed by a state, county, or municipal officer, inspector or agent of the ABLE Commission;

10. Manufacture, duplicate, counterfeit or in any way imitate any bottle club membership card required to be issued by the ABLE Commission without the permission of said Commission;

11. Consume or possess alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises of a bottle club unless such person possesses a valid membership card for that club issued by the club; or

12. Knowingly possess any bottle club membership card required to be issued by the ABLE Commission, which has been manufactured, counterfeited, imitated or in any way duplicated without the permission of said Commission.

B. No licensee of the ABLE Commission shall:

1. Receive, possess, or sell any alcoholic beverage except as authorized by the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act and by the license or permit which he holds;

2. Employ any person under the age of twenty-one (21) in the selling or handling of alcoholic beverages. Provided, that a mixed beverage, beer and wine, caterer, special event or bottle club licensee may employ servers who are <u>at least</u> eighteen (18) years of age ~~or older~~, except <u>persons under twenty-one (21) years of age may not serve</u> in designated bar or lounge areas<u>, and a mixed beverage, beer and wine, caterer, special event or bottle club licensee may employ or hire musical bands who have musicians who are under twenty-one (21) years of age if each such musician is either accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or has on their person, to be made available for inspection upon demand by any ABLE Commission officer or law enforcement officer, a written, notarized affidavit from the parent or legal guardian giving the underage musician permission to perform in designated bar or lounge areas</u>;

3. Give any alcoholic beverage as a prize, premium or consideration for any lottery, game of chance or skill or any type of competition;

4. Advertise or offer "happy hours" or any other means or inducements to stimulate the consumption of alcoholic beverages including:

a. deliver more than two drinks to one person at one time;

b. sell or offer to sell to any person or group of persons any drinks at a price less than the price regularly charged for such drinks during the same calendar week, except at private functions not open to the public;

c. sell or offer to sell to any person an unlimited number of drinks during any set period of time for a fixed price, except at private functions not open to the public;

d. sell or offer to sell drinks to any person or group of persons on any one day at prices less than those charged the general public on that day, except at private functions not open to the public;

e. increase the volume of alcoholic beverages contained in a drink without increasing proportionately the price regularly charged for such drink during the same calendar week; or

f. encourage or permit, on the licensed premises, any game or contest which involves drinking or the awarding of drinks as prizes.

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall not prohibit the advertising or offering of food or entertainment in licensed establishments;

5. Permit or allow any patron or person to exit the licensed premises with an open container of any alcoholic beverage. Provided, that this prohibition shall not be applicable to closed original containers of alcoholic beverages which are carried from the licensed premises of a bottle club by a patron, closed

original wine containers removed from the premises of restaurants, hotels, and motels, or to closed original containers of alcoholic beverages transported to and from the place of business of a licensed caterer by the caterer or his employee; or

6. Serve or sell alcoholic beverages with an expired license issued by the ABLE Commission.

C. No package store licensee shall:

1. Purchase or receive any alcoholic beverage other than from a person holding a brewer, wholesaler or Class B wholesaler license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act;

2. Suffer or permit any retail container to be opened, or any alcoholic beverage to be consumed, on his licensed premises;

3. Sell, or keep package store premises open for the purpose of selling, any alcoholic beverages at any hour other than between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday; provided, that no such sales shall be made, or package store premises be allowed to remain open for the purpose of making such sales, on the day of any General, Primary, Runoff Primary or Special Election while the polls are open whether on a national, state, county or city election or on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day;

4. Operate a retail package store unless such store shall be located in a city or town having a population in excess of two hundred (200) according to the latest Federal Decennial Census;

5. Sell any alcoholic beverage on credit; provided that acceptance by a retail liquor store of a cash or debit card, or a nationally recognized credit card, in lieu of actual cash payment does not constitute the extension of credit; provided further, as used in this section:

a. "cash or debit card" means any instrument or device whether known as a debit card or by any other name, issued with or without fee by an issuer for the use of the cardholder in depositing, obtaining or

transferring funds from a consumer banking electronic facility,

b. "nationally recognized credit card" means any instrument or device, whether known as a credit card, credit plate, charge plate or by any other name, issued with or without fee by an issuer for the use of the cardholder in obtaining money, goods, services or anything else of value on credit which is accepted by over one hundred (100) merchants;

6. Offer or furnish any prize, premium, gift or similar inducement to a consumer in connection with the sale of alcoholic beverage, except that goods or merchandise included by the manufacturer in packaging with alcoholic beverages or for packaging with alcoholic beverages shall not be included in this prohibition, but no wholesaler or package store shall sell any alcoholic beverage prepackaged with other goods or merchandise at a price which is greater than the price at which the alcoholic beverage alone is sold;

7. Permit any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to enter into, remain within or loiter about the licensed premises; or

8. Pay for alcoholic beverages by a check or draft which is dishonored by the drawee when presented to such drawee for payment; and the ABLE Commission may cancel or suspend the license of any retailer who has given a check or draft, as maker or endorser, which is so dishonored upon presentation.

D. No wholesaler licensee shall:

1. Sell or deliver any amount of spirits or wines to any package store licensee on Saturday or Sunday; or

2. Sell or deliver any amount of spirits or wines to any package store licensee on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day.

E. No mixed beverage or beer and wine licensee shall:

1. Purchase or receive any alcoholic beverage other than from a person holding a wholesaler or Class B wholesaler license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act;

2. Transport alcoholic beverages from the place of purchase to his licensed premises unless said licensee also holds a private carrier license issued by the ABLE Commission;

3. Use or allow the use of any mark or label on a container of alcoholic beverage which is kept for sale which does not clearly and precisely indicate the nature of the contents or which might deceive or conceal the nature, composition, quantity, age or quality of such beverage;

4. Keep or knowingly permit any alcoholic beverage to be kept, brought or consumed on his licensed premises which is not allowed to be sold or served upon such premises; or

5. Allow any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to enter into, remain within or loiter about the designated bar area of the licensed premises, except for members of a musical band employed or hired as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section when the band is to perform within such area.

F. No bottle club licensee shall:

1. Use or allow the use of any mark or label on a container of alcoholic beverage which does not clearly and precisely indicate the nature of the contents or which might deceive or conceal the nature, composition, quantity, age or quality of any such beverage;

2. Act as an agent for any bottle club member and purchase any alcoholic beverage for said member;

3. Use or allow the use of any pool system of storage or purchase of alcoholic beverages;

4. Allow any person to enter or remain in the designated bar or lounge area of the club unless that person possesses a valid membership card for that club issued by the club;

5. Sell any alcoholic beverage;

6. Deliver or furnish to any club member any alcoholic beverage that does not belong to said member;

7. Serve alcoholic beverages to any person who does not possess a valid membership card for that club issued by the club;

8. Issue a membership card for the club to a person under twenty-one (21) years of age; or

9. Allow any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to enter into, remain within or loiter about the designated bar area of the licensed premises, except for members of a musical band employed or hired as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section when the band is to perform within such area.

G. No special event or caterer licensee shall:

1. Purchase or receive any alcoholic beverage other than from a person holding a wholesaler or Class B wholesaler license issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control Act; or

2. Transport alcoholic beverages from the place of purchase to his licensed premises unless said licensee also holds a private carrier license issued by the ABLE Commission.

H. No person operating a cafe, restaurant, club, or any place of recreation shall permit any person to be drunk or intoxicated in said place of business.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 37 O.S. 1991, Section 598, as amended by Section 47, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 1995 (37 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 598), is amended to read as follows:

Section 598. A. If the premises of a licensee of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission contains a separate or enclosed lounge or bar area, which has as its main purpose the sale or distribution, of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, notwithstanding that as an incidental service, meals or short order foods are made available therein, no person under twenty-one (21) years of age shall be admitted to such area, except for members of a musical band employed or hired as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B of Section 537 of this title when the band is to perform within such area. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit persons under twenty-one (21) years of age from being admitted to an area which has as its main purpose some objective other than the sale or mixing or serving of said

beverages, in which sales or serving of said beverages are incidental to the main purpose, as long as the persons under twenty-one (21) years of age are not sold or served alcoholic beverages. The incidental service of food in the bar area shall not exempt a licensee from the provisions of this section. The ABLE Commission shall have the authority to designate the portions of the premises of a licensee where persons under twenty-one (21) years of age shall not be admitted pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section only, the term "alcoholic beverages" shall include low-point beer, as defined in Section 163.2 of this title.

B. Except as otherwise provided, an admission charge shall not be considered in any calculation designed to determine the main purpose of an establishment pursuant to subsection A of this section. As used in this section, "admission charge" means any form of consideration received by an establishment from a person in order for that person to gain entrance into the establishment.

C. The provisions of subsection B of this section shall not apply:

1. If only persons eighteen (18) years of age or older are permitted to enter the licensed premises; provided however, if the licensee is claiming an exception from the requirements of subsection B of this section pursuant to this paragraph and fails to restrict the entry by persons under age eighteen (18) into the licensed premises, the ABLE Commission shall designate that only persons twenty-one (21) years of age or older are allowed on the licensed premises;

2. If the licensed premises are owned or operated by a service organization or fraternal establishment which is exempt under Section 501(c)(19), (8), or (10) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

3. To a public event held in a facility owned or operated by any agency, political subdivision or public trust of this state.

D. The ABLE Commission shall promulgate ~~and adopt~~ rules ~~and regulations~~ necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 1997.

46-1-7868 SD