

A Bill for an Act Amending Section 281-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Relating to the Transfer of Liquor Licenses.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 281-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 281-41. Transfer of licenses; notice of change in officers, directors and stockholders of corporate licensees; penalty. No license issued under this chapter shall be transferable or be transferred within one year of its original issuance, except for good cause shown to the satisfaction of the liquor commission. No license issued under this chapter shall be transferable or be transferred except upon written application to the commission by the proposed transferee, and after prior inspection of the premises, reference to, and report by an inspector, and a public hearing held by the commission not less than fourteen days after one publication of notice thereof, but without sending notice of the hearing by mail to persons being the owners or lessees of real estate situate within the vicinity of the premises and without the right to such owners or lessees to protest the transfer of a license.

Where a license is held by a partnership, the commission may, notwithstanding this section, transfer the license upon the death or withdrawal of a member of the partnership to any remaining partner or partners without publication of notice and without public hearing.

Where a license is held by a limited partnership, the admission or withdrawal of a limited partner shall not be deemed a transfer of the license held by the partnership, but the licensee shall, within thirty days from the date of such admission or withdrawal, so notify the commission in writing, stating the name of the partner or partners who have withdrawn, if such be the case, and the name, age and place of residence of the partner or partners who have been admitted, if that be the case. If the commission finds a limited partner to be an unfit or improper person to hold a license in his own right pursuant to section 281-45, it may revoke the license or suspend the license of the partnership until the unfit or improper partner is removed or replaced.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the same procedure shall be followed in regard to the transfer of a license as is prescribed by this chapter for obtaining a license. Sections 281-51 to 281-60, except where inconsistent with any provision hereof, are hereby made applicable to such transfers. The word ‘applicant’, as used in such sections, shall include each such proposed transferee, and the words, ‘application for a license or for the renewal of a license’, as used in such sections, shall include an application for the transfer of a license.

Upon the hearing, the commission shall consider the application and any objections to the granting thereof, and hear the parties in interest. It shall inquire into the propriety of each transfer and determine whether the proposed transferee is a fit person to hold the license. It may approve a transfer or refuse to approve a transfer, and the refusal by the commission to approve

a transfer shall be final and conclusive, unless an appeal is taken as provided in chapter 91.

If any licensee without such approval transfers to any other person his business for which his license was issued, either openly or under any undisclosed arrangement whereby any person other than the licensee comes into possession or control of the business, or takes in any partner or associate the commission may in its discretion suspend or cancel the license.

If the licensee is a corporation, a change in ownership of any outstanding capital stock shall not be deemed a transfer of a license; provided, that in the case of a change in ownership of twenty-five per cent or more of the stock or in the case of change in ownership of any number of shares of the stock which results in the transferee thereof becoming the owner of twenty-five per cent or more of the outstanding capital stock, the corporate licensee shall, within thirty days from the date of such transfer, notify the commission in writing. In addition, the corporate licensee shall, within thirty days from the date of election of any officer or director, notify the commission in writing of the name, age, and place of residence of such officer or director. If the commission finds the transferee, officer or director an unfit or improper person to hold a license in his own right pursuant to section 281-45, it may in its discretion revoke the license or suspend the license until a retransfer or new transfer of such capital stock is effected to a fit or proper person pursuant to section 281-45 or until the unfit or improper officer or director is removed or replaced.

If a licensee closes out the business for which the license is held, during the term for which the license was issued, he shall, within five days from the date of closing the same, give the commission written notice thereof and surrender his license for cancellation.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes may exclude the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
(Approved May 24, 1971.)

* Edited accordingly.