

File Number: H.F. 4152
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Subject: Off-sale licenses for food retailers authorized

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Overview

With a few small exceptions, current law only allows a municipality to issue an off-sale intoxicating liquor license (i.e. a license that allows the sale of liquor for consumption off the licensed premises) to an exclusive liquor store. (Off-sale 3.2 percent malt liquor licenses are not subject to this restriction.) HF 4152 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 be allowed to sell beer, wine and Minnesota distilled spirits under the proposed license.

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. 4152 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.

Section

- 1 Food retailer (definition).** Defines “food retailer” as a 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.

Section

- 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.
- 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, wine and Minnesota distilled spirits.
- 5** **Off-sale licenses (limit on total issuance).** Excludes off-sale intoxicating liquor licenses issued to food retailers from the statutory limits placed on cities of the first class cities regarding the total number of off-sale licenses that may be issued.
- 6** **Entering licensed premises.** Restricts a local authority from prohibiting a person under 21 years of age from entering the premises of a food retailer holding an off-sale license.