



Washington District of Columbia Driver's Licenses and Non- Driver Identification Cards

Purpose:

The Division of Enforcement and Licensing has been asked to provide licensee guidance relative to acceptable forms of identification for the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Background:

RSA 179:8 Statement From Purchaser as to Age. –

I. For the purposes of RSA 179:7, any person making the sale of beverages or liquor to any person whose age is in question shall require the purchaser to furnish any of the following documentation that such person is 21 years of age or over:

(a) A motor vehicle driver's license issued by the state of New Hampshire, or a valid driver's license issued by another state, or province of Canada, which bears the date of birth, name, address and picture of the licensee.

(b) An identification card issued by the director of motor vehicles under the provisions of RSA 260:21, or any picture identification card issued by another state which bears the date of birth, name and address of the individual.

(c) An armed services identification card.

(d) A valid passport from a country with whom the United States maintains diplomatic relations.

II. Photographic identification presented under this section shall be consistent with the appearance of the person, and shall not be expired and shall be correct and free of alteration, erasure, blemish, or other impairment.

Source. 1990, 255:1. 1998, 167:7, eff. July 1, 1998.

Discussion:

Recently there has been confusion as to the acceptability of Washington D.C. driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards for the purchase of alcoholic beverages within the state.

Division Statement:

Although the language of RSA 179:8 does not specifically reference Washington D.C. it is understood that the District of Columbia is the capitol of the United States. The Division of Enforcement and Licensing does not believe the legislative intent of the statute was to omit and thereby exclude the documents as acceptable forms of identification under Title XIII. Therefore, the Division of Enforcement and Licensing's position is that Washington D.C.'s driver's licenses and non –driver identification cards are acceptable for the purchase of alcoholic beverages. Licensees and their employees are reminded to examine these documents to ensure they meet the physical requirements of the statute such as bearing the date of birth, name, address and picture of the individual. RSA 179:8 II., shall also apply to these forms of identification.

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