



Relative and Applicable Statutes and Rules:

RSA 178:21

Full Service Restaurant Exception to Evening Meals Requirement

1. Discussion

The Division of Enforcement & Licensing has received requests by licensees holding a full service restaurant license to change their hours of operation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The New Hampshire law addressing this issue is RSA 178:21, II, a, 2 and states “(2) The dining room shall be open for business at least 5 days a week for evening meals, unless the commission has granted an exemption”.

The New Hampshire Liquor Commission recognizes the challenges licensees have experienced during these unprecedented times and we are furthering our commitment to assist with the impact the pandemic has potentially caused to your business. Therefore, all full service restaurant licensees who want to reduce/change their hours of operation from the statutory requirement can simply email the Division’s licensing unit at reopen@liquor.nh.gov. Your email should include a brief explanation of the reasoning for the request and the anticipated length of time you are requesting the exception (no hourly exceptions shall extend beyond the Governor’s Emergency Order). Your request will be reviewed and you will receive an email response upon approval.

2. Questions

Please contact the New Hampshire Liquor Commission- Division of Enforcement & Licensing at 603-271-3521.