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**RESOLUTION** 31308

1 A RESOLUTION requesting that the Washington State Liquor Control Board amend State  
2 Administrative Rule WAC 314-11-070 and create a new section to allow local  
3 governments to petition the Board to establish extended hours service areas within local  
4 jurisdictions.

5 WHEREAS, a well-planned and managed nightlife can have a profound positive impact on a  
6 local economy, generating direct tax revenues, and growing public funds through  
7 increased property value, revitalized business districts, and increased tourism; and

8 WHEREAS, Washington's post-Prohibition approach to liquor service, with its state-wide  
9 uniform 2:00 a.m. closing time, is increasingly at odds with urban economies, lifestyles  
10 and general values associated with drinking and entertainment; and

11 WHEREAS, at least 15 states across the country delegate completely or partially authority for  
12 setting service hours to local jurisdictions or allow local jurisdictions to extend hours of  
13 service subject to state approval; and

14 WHEREAS, allowing local jurisdictions to modify closing times can lead to better allocation of  
15 public resources, provide a more uniform flow of patrons from venues, spread nightlife-  
16 related demand for taxi service, and reduce the concentration of crowds; and

17 WHEREAS, modified closing times can improve quality of life in local jurisdictions by  
18 mitigating public safety and nuisance issues associated with the uniform 2 a.m.  
19 "pushout"; and

20 WHEREAS, local jurisdictions can better maximize benefits and minimize risks of flexible  
21 service hours by reviewing the successes and failures of other jurisdictions, and  
22 identifying and tailoring best practices for use in the local jurisdiction; and

23 WHEREAS, this effort is a critical component of the broader Seattle Nightlife Initiative, which  
24 was launched in July, 2010 as a full suite of eight actions that together provide a  
25 comprehensive, balanced approach to managing the city's nighttime economy; and

26 WHEREAS, this effort can only be realized with the approval of the Washington State Liquor  
27 Control Board;

28 WHEREAS, the Executive will work with the City Council and the Liquor Control Board to  
develop rules necessary to implement an extended hours policy,

NOW THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
2 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

3  
4 Section 1. The City of Seattle requests that the Washington State Liquor Control Board  
5 modify existing WAC 314-11-070, which strictly prohibits service of any alcohol between 2 a.m.  
6 and 6 a.m., and establish new rules allowing local authorities to petition to establish extended  
7 hours service areas within their jurisdictions.

8 Section 2. The City of Seattle will work collaboratively with the Washington State Liquor  
9 Control Board, other local jurisdictions, and other police and law enforcement authorities to: 1)  
10 research the experience of other jurisdictions that have authorized extended service hours, 2)  
11 review the proposed changes to WAC 314-11-170, and 3) identify policing and regulatory  
12 strategies that would lead to safe and successful implementation of extended hour service areas.



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

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**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION requesting that the Washington State Liquor Control Board amend State Administrative Rule WAC 314-11-070 and create a new section to allow local governments to petition the Board to establish extended hours service areas within local jurisdictions.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This resolution supports a petition to the Washington State Liquor Control Board to amend existing rules to allow for creation of extended hours service areas within local jurisdictions. This effort is being proposed as part of Seattle's comprehensive Nightlife Initiative, which aims to increase public safety and provide businesses with greater flexibility to adapt to the market demands of residents and visitors.

Council Central Staff (Ketil Freeman) Note:

On July 19, 2011 a combined Public Safety and Education and Regional Development and Sustainability Committee amended Resolution 31308 to:

- 1) Change the title to clarify that the Resolution itself is a request to the WSLCB to amend the WAC;
- 2) Make minor stylistic changes to the recitals and modify the third and fourth recital to change some emphasis and wording;
- 3) Add a new section that establishes that the City will work collaboratively with the WSLCB, other local governments and other local police and law enforcement authorities as a potential rule change is established to determine best practices for safely and successfully implementing extended service hour areas.

**Background:**

Seattle's diverse lifestyle and economy, as well as conventioners and visitors accustomed to more modern liquor laws, create demand for nightlife that extends beyond existing entertainment hours. This is evident in two recent polls, in which more than 75% of over 4,000 participants supported extended hours in Seattle. Despite market demand for later hours of entertainment, and apparent cultural acceptance of the concept, Seattle venues are not currently allowed to accommodate socializing and entertainment after 2 a.m.

Washington's uniform 2 a.m. closing time also places considerable demands on Seattle's police

and other public resources to manage and respond to large crowds and occasional aggressive behavior that results when thousands of individuals leave bars at the same time.

Seattle is currently at a competitive disadvantage with other jurisdictions that allow extended service hours. Extended service hours would bring economic benefits to Seattle, including increased numbers of visitors, a more vibrant entertainment industry, and broader recognition as a city friendly to young professionals.

Across the country, at least 15 states allow local jurisdictions substantial authority to determine or extend hours of service based on market demand and regulatory capacity, and at least 18 jurisdictions have established liquor service hours later than 2 a.m. As a progressive and adaptable city, Seattle is well suited to join these cities by adopting a more flexible urban policy that accommodates diverse lifestyles and entertainment choices.

Please check one of the following:

**This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

**This legislation has financial implications.**