



Tony Evers
Governor

David M. Casey
Secretary Designee of Revenue

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CONTACT: Jennifer Bacon, (608) 266-2300
DORCommunications@wisconsin.gov

New Statewide Operator's Permit Offers Alternative to Traditional Bartender's Licenses

Madison, WI – A new Wisconsin law took effect on January 1, 2025, introducing a Statewide Operator's Permit. This provides a streamlined option for individuals serving alcohol beverages across multiple municipalities.

What is the Statewide Operator's Permit?

The Statewide Operator's Permit offers a new alternative to traditional operator's licenses, often referred to as "bartender's licenses." Unlike municipal operator's licenses, valid only within the issuing municipality, the Statewide Operator's Permit is valid at a licensed or permitted premises anywhere in Wisconsin. It provides flexibility for businesses operating in multiple municipalities, eliminating the need to obtain separate operator's licenses for each location.

"The implementation of the Statewide Operator's Permit marks a significant step forward in ensuring responsible alcohol service across Wisconsin," said Mark Meyer, Division Administrator for the Wisconsin Division of Alcohol Beverages (DAB). "This new law streamlines the process for servers and establishments alike, promoting consistency and enhancing public safety. We are committed to working with licensees that choose this option to facilitate a smooth transition and uphold the highest standards of alcohol beverage control."

For more details and permit qualifications, visit the Wisconsin Division of Alcohol Beverages website at revenue.wi.gov.

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