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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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**2015 Wisconsin Act 8  
[2015 Senate Bill 37]**

**Alcohol Beverage Licenses for  
Painting Studios**

2015 Wisconsin Act 8 relates to painting studios, which the Act defines as “an establishment that is primarily engaged in the business of providing to customers instruction in the art of painting and that offers customers the opportunity to purchase food and beverages for consumption while they paint.”

In general, a Class “B” (beer) retail license or permit may not be issued to a premises that combines the retail sale of fermented malt beverages with any other business activity. [s. 125.32 (3m) (intro.), Stats.] Numerous exemptions exist, such as for hotels, restaurants, and taverns combined with grocery stores, novelty stores, or, in certain locations, sporting goods stores. The Act adds painting studios to the list of businesses exempt from this prohibition.

In general, unaccompanied minors are barred from entering or remaining on premises licensed for the retail sale of alcohol beverages. [s. 125.07 (3) (a), Stats.] Numerous exemptions to this prohibition exist, including exemptions for certain types of businesses, such as hotels, drug stores, grocery stores, bowling centers, and movie theaters. The Act adds painting studios to the list of businesses exempt from this prohibition.

In general, premises holding a Class “B” (beer) retail license or permit may not remain open during specified hours. [s. 125.32 (3) (a), Stats.] Similar mandatory closing hours apply to premises holding a “Class B” (liquor or wine) or “Class C” (wine only) retail license or permit. [s. 125.68 (4) (c) 1., 3., and 3m., Stats.] Certain businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, bowling centers, and movie theaters, are allowed to stay open for the conduct of their regular business during the mandatory closing hours provided they do not sell the alcohol beverage authorized under the license or permit during those hours. The Act adds painting studios to the list of businesses that receive this exemption.

*Effective date:* April 10, 2015

*Prepared by:* David L. Lovell, Principal Analyst

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.