

In the nine years preceding COVID-19 (2010-2019), the labor force participation rate for 16 to 19 year olds in Kentucky remained unchanged so it is doubtful this would have a significant impact on the number of new-hires.

However, since a number of alcohol-serving businesses have had trouble hiring and retaining employees over the past couple of years, passing SB 237 may alleviate their worries regarding hiring by making available a new source of eligible new-hires.

Below are the serving ages for the fifty states and the District of Columbia as of January 2021. There are 39 out of 51 states (including the District of Columbia) have a minimum serving age of 18; 7 states have a minimum serving age of 19. Maine’s serving age is 17. Only 3 states have serving age requirements higher than Kentucky.

Policy as of January, 2021								
State	Minimum Age To Serve			State	Minimum Age To Serve			
	Beer	Wine	Spirits		Beer	Wine	Spirits	
Alabama	19	19	19	Missouri	18	18	18	
Alaska	21	21	21	Montana	18	18	18	
Arizona	18	18	18	Nebraska	19	19	19	
Arkansas	19	19	19	Nevada	21	21	21	
California	18	18	18	New Hampshire	18	18	18	
Colorado	18	18	18	New Jersey	18	18	18	
Connecticut	18	18	18	New Mexico	19	19	19	
Delaware	18	18	18	New York	18	18	18	
District of Columbia	18	18	18	North Carolina	18	18	18	
Florida	18	18	18	North Dakota	18	18	18	
Georgia	18	18	18	Ohio	19	19	19	
Hawaii	18	18	18	Oklahoma	18	18	18	
Idaho	19	19	19	Oregon	18	18	18	
Illinois	18	18	18	Pennsylvania	18	18	18	
Indiana	19	19	19	Rhode Island	18	18	18	
Iowa	18	18	18	South Carolina	18	18	18	
Kansas	18	18	18	South Dakota	18	18	18	
Kentucky	20	20	20	Tennessee	18	18	18	
Louisiana	18	18	18	Texas	18	18	18	
Maine	17	17	17	Utah	21	21	21	
Maryland	18	18	18	Vermont	18	18	18	
Massachusetts	18	18	18	Virginia	18	18	18	
Michigan	18	18	18	Washington	18	18	18	
Minnesota	18	18	18	West Virginia	18	18	18	
Mississippi	18	18	18	Wisconsin	18	18	18	
				Wyoming	18	18	18	

**KRS 244.090 currently states that a grocery or convenience store worker may be 18 years old and sell malt beverages. (see KRS 244.090(1)(c)(3): “At the premises licensed only with a nonquota retail malt beverage package license, and the person employed to sell malt beverages is at least eighteen (18) years of age and under the supervision of a person twenty (20) years of age or older or...”*

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II refers to SB 237 as introduced. There are no prior versions of this bill.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff

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