# 33:1-19.7 and 33:1-19.8
# LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF**: 2023 **CHAPTER:** 104

**NJSA:** 33:1-19.7 and 33:1-19.8: Allows issuance of alcoholic beverage retail license for use in connection with nonprofit movie theaters that promote arts.

**BILL NO**: S3328 (Substituted for A4873)

**SPONSOR(S)** Gopal, Vin and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 11/14/2022

**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY:** Budget

**SENATE:** Law & Public Safety

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** **ASSEMBLY:** 06/30/2023

**SENATE:** 05/22/2023

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 7/7/2023

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (S3328 enacted) Yes

**S3328**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY**: Yes

**SENATE:** Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**A4873**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY**: Yes

**SENATE:** No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 104, ***approved July 7, 2023***
Senate, No. 3328

**AN ACT** concerning alcoholic beverage licenses and amending P.L.1985, c.151 and P.L.2019, c.466.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 1 of P.L.1985, c.151 (C.33:1-19.7) is amended to read as follows:

1. **[**It shall be lawful for the**]** The governing board or body of any municipality, upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, **[**to**]** may issue a plenary retail consumption license to a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which regularly operates as an art-house movie theater or conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts for which admission is charged. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be used in connection with a premises with a seating capacity of 1,000 persons or more that is primarily used to conduct musical or theatrical performances or concerts.

The license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by the nonprofit corporation or its restaurant operator who has been approved pursuant to procedures established by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for consumption on the licensed premises:

a. during the two hours immediately preceding performances;

b. during performances, including intermission; and

c. during the two hours immediately following performances.

For the purposes of this section,

**[**"licensed premises"**]** "Licensed premises" shall include the premises where the musical or theatrical performance or concert is held and any adjacent premises owned and operated by the licensee.

"Art-house movie theater" means a theater that is principally used for the purpose of showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

A license issued under the provisions of this **[**act**]** section shall not be counted in determining the number of licenses under P.L.1947, c.94 (C.33:1-12.13 et seq.) or under P.L.1968, c.277 (C.40:48-2.40 et seq.).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.466, s.1)

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

2. Section 2 of P.L.2019, c.466 (C.33:1-19.8) is amended to read as follows:

2. [It shall be lawful for the] The governing board or body of any municipality, upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, [to] may issue a plenary retail consumption license to a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code [that is incorporated on the effective date of this act,] which regularly operates as an art-house movie theater or conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts for which admission is charged. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be used in connection with a premises with a seating capacity of 50 persons or more but less than 1,000 persons that is primarily used to conduct musical or theatrical performances or concerts.

The license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by the nonprofit corporation or its restaurant operator who has been approved pursuant to procedures established by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for consumption on the licensed premises:

a. during the two hours immediately preceding performances;

b. during performances, including intermission; and

c. for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year, during the two hours immediately following performances.

For the purposes of this section,

["licensed premises"] "Licensed premises" shall include the premises where the musical or theatrical performance or concert is held and any adjacent premises owned and operated by the licensee.

"Art-house movie theater" means a theater that is principally used for the purpose of showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

A license issued under the provisions of this [act] section shall not be counted in determining the number of licenses under P.L.1947, c.94 (C.33:1-12.13 et seq.) or under P.L.1968, c.277 (C.40:48-2.40 et seq.).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.466, s.2)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill allows the governing body of a municipality to issue a plenary retail consumption license to a person or nonprofit entity for use in connection with an art-house movie theater. The bill defines

"art-house movie theater" as a theater that is principally used for showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to issue a special plenary retail consumption license, known as a "theater license," to a nonprofit corporation that conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts on the licensed premises. The holder of this special license may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance and two hours prior to the performance. In addition, large and small theaters may serve alcoholic beverages during the two hours immediately following performances, but small theaters established prior to the effective date of P.L.2019, c.466 with a seating capacity between 50 and 1,000 are limited to doing so for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year.

Theater licenses are not subject to the population restriction placed on plenary retail consumption licenses (for bars and restaurants), which are limited to one for each 3,000 residents in a municipality.

This bill extends the issuance of these theater licenses to nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promoting the arts.

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Allows issuance of alcoholic beverage retail license for use in connection with nonprofit movie theaters that promote arts.

# SENATE, No. 3328

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 14, 2022

**Sponsored by:**
**Senator VIN GOPAL**
**District 11 (Monmouth)**
**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**
**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**
**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**
**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**
**Senators O'Scanlon, Johnson, Ruiz, Assemblywomen Park and Haider**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows issuance of alcoholic beverage retail license for use in connection with nonprofit movie theaters that promote arts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2023)**

**AN ACT** concerning alcoholic beverage licenses and amending P.L.1985, c.151 and P.L.2019, c.466.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 1 of P.L.1985, c.151 (C.33:1-19.7) is amended to read as follows:

1. **[**It shall be lawful for the**]** The governing board or body of any municipality, upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, **[**to**]** may issue a plenary retail consumption license to a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which regularly operates as an art-house movie theater or conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts for which admission is charged. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be used in connection with a premises with a seating capacity of 1,000 persons or more that is primarily used to conduct musical or theatrical performances or concerts.

The license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by the nonprofit corporation or its restaurant operator who has been approved pursuant to procedures established by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for consumption on the licensed premises:

a. during the two hours immediately preceding performances;

b. during performances, including intermission; and

c. during the two hours immediately following performances.

For the purposes of this section,

**[**"licensed premises"**]** "Licensed premises" shall include the premises where the musical or theatrical performance or concert is held and any adjacent premises owned and operated by the licensee.

"Art-house movie theater" means a theater that is principally used for the purpose of showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

A license issued under the provisions of this **[**act**]** section shall not be counted in determining the number of licenses under P.L.1947, c.94 (C.33:1-12.13 et seq.) or under P.L.1968, c.277 (C.40:48-2.40 et seq.).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.466, s.1)

2. Section 2 of P.L.2019, c.466 (C.33:1-19.8) is amended to read as follows:

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

2. [It shall be lawful for the] The governing board or body of any municipality, upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, [to] may issue a plenary retail consumption license to a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code [that is incorporated on the effective date of this act,] which regularly operates as an art-house movie theater or conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts for which admission is charged. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be used in connection with a premises with a seating capacity of 50 persons or more but less than 1,000 persons that is primarily used to conduct musical or theatrical performances or concerts.

The license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by the nonprofit corporation or its restaurant operator who has been approved pursuant to procedures established by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for consumption on the licensed premises:

a. during the two hours immediately preceding performances;

b. during performances, including intermission; and

c. for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year, during the two hours immediately following performances.

For the purposes of this section,

["licensed premises"] "Licensed premises" shall include the premises where the musical or theatrical performance or concert is held and any adjacent premises owned and operated by the licensee.

"Art-house movie theater" means a theater that is principally used for the purpose of showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

A license issued under the provisions of this [act] section shall not be counted in determining the number of licenses under P.L.1947, c.94 (C.33:1-12.13 et seq.) or under P.L.1968, c.277 (C.40:48-2.40 et seq.).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.466, s.2)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill allows the governing body of a municipality to issue a plenary retail consumption license to a person or nonprofit entity for use in connection with an art-house movie theater. The bill defines "art-house movie theater" as a theater that is principally used for showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts

organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to issue a special plenary retail consumption license, known as a "theater license," to a nonprofit corporation that conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts on the licensed premises. The holder of this special license may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance and two hours prior to the performance. In addition, large and small theaters may serve alcoholic beverages during the two hours immediately following performances, but small theaters established prior to the effective date of P.L.2019, c.466 with a seating capacity between 50 and 1,000 are limited to doing so for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year.

Theater licenses are not subject to the population restriction placed on plenary retail consumption licenses (for bars and restaurants), which are limited to one for each 3,000 residents in a municipality.

This bill extends the issuance of these theater licenses to nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promoting the arts.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

# SENATE, No. 3328

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2023

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3328.

This bill allows the governing body of a municipality to issue a plenary retail consumption license to a person or nonprofit entity for use in connection with an art-house movie theater. The bill defines "art-house movie theater" as a theater that is principally used for showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to issue a special plenary retail consumption license, known as a "theater license," to a nonprofit corporation that conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts on the licensed premises. The holder of this special license may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance and two hours prior to the performance. In addition, large and small theaters may serve alcoholic beverages during the two hours immediately following performances, but small theaters established prior to the effective date of P.L.2019, c.466 with a seating capacity between 50 and 1,000 are limited to doing so for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year.

Theater licenses are not subject to the population restriction placed on plenary retail consumption licenses (for bars and restaurants), which are limited to one for each 3,000 residents in a municipality.

This bill extends the issuance of these theater licenses to nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promoting the arts.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4873 which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified for a fiscal note.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

# SENATE, No. 3328

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2023

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3328.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3328 allows the governing body of a municipality to issue a plenary retail consumption license to a person or nonprofit entity for use in connection with an art-house movie theater. The bill defines "art-house movie theater" as a theater that is principally used for showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to issue a special plenary retail consumption license, known as a "theater license," to a nonprofit corporation that conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts on the licensed premises. The holder of this special license may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance and two hours prior to the performance. In addition, large and small theaters may serve alcoholic beverages during the two hours immediately following performances, but small theaters established prior to the effective date of P.L.2019, c.466 with a seating capacity between 50 and 1,000 are limited to doing so for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year.

Theater licenses are not subject to the population restriction placed on plenary retail consumption licenses (for bars and restaurants), which are limited to one for each 3,000 residents in a municipality.

This bill extends the issuance of these theater licenses to nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promoting the arts.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4873

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 21, 2022

**Sponsored by:**
**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**
**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**
**Assemblywomen Park and Haider**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows issuance of alcoholic beverage retail license for use in connection with nonprofit movie theaters that promote arts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2023)**

**AN ACT** concerning alcoholic beverage licenses and amending P.L.1985, c.151 and P.L.2019, c.466.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 1 of P.L.1985, c.151 (C.33:1-19.7) is amended to read as follows:

1. **[**It shall be lawful for the**]** The governing board or body of any municipality, upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, **[**to**]** may issue a plenary retail consumption license to a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which regularly operates as an art-house movie theater or conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts for which admission is charged. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be used in connection with a premises with a seating capacity of 1,000 persons or more that is primarily used to conduct musical or theatrical performances or concerts.

The license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by the nonprofit corporation or its restaurant operator who has been approved pursuant to procedures established by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for consumption on the licensed premises:

a. during the two hours immediately preceding performances;

b. during performances, including intermission; and

c. during the two hours immediately following performances.

For the purposes of this section,

**[**"licensed premises"**]** "Licensed premises" shall include the premises where the musical or theatrical performance or concert is held and any adjacent premises owned and operated by the licensee.

"Art-house movie theater" means a theater that is principally used for the purpose of showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

A license issued under the provisions of this **[**act**]** section shall not be counted in determining the number of licenses under P.L.1947, c.94 (C.33:1-12.13 et seq.) or under P.L.1968, c.277 (C.40:48-2.40 et seq.).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.466, s.1)

2. Section 2 of P.L.2019, c.466 (C.33:1-19.8) is amended to read as follows:

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

2. ⟦It shall be lawful for the⟧ The governing board or body of any municipality, upon the approval of the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, ⟦to⟧ may issue a plenary retail consumption license to a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ⟦that is incorporated on the effective date of this act,⟧ which regularly operates as an art-house movie theater or conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts for which admission is charged. A license issued pursuant to this section shall be used in connection with a premises with a seating capacity of 50 persons or more but less than 1,000 persons that is primarily used to conduct musical or theatrical performances or concerts.

The license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by the nonprofit corporation or its restaurant operator who has been approved pursuant to procedures established by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for consumption on the licensed premises:

a. during the two hours immediately preceding performances;

b. during performances, including intermission; and

c. for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year, during the two hours immediately following performances.

For the purposes of this section,

⟦"licensed premises"⟧ "Licensed premises" shall include the premises where the musical or theatrical performance or concert is held and any adjacent premises owned and operated by the licensee.

"Art-house movie theater" means a theater that is principally used for the purpose of showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

A license issued under the provisions of this ⟦act⟧ section shall not be counted in determining the number of licenses under P.L.1947, c.94 (C.33:1-12.13 et seq.) or under P.L.1968, c.277 (C.40:48-2.40 et seq.).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.466, s.2)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill allows the governing body of a municipality to issue a plenary retail consumption license to a person or nonprofit entity for use in connection with an art-house movie theater. The bill defines "art-house movie theater" as a theater that is principally used for showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts

organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to issue a special plenary retail consumption license, known as a "theater license," to a nonprofit corporation that conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts on the licensed premises. The holder of this special license may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance and two hours prior to the performance. In addition, large and small theaters may serve alcoholic beverages during the two hours immediately following performances, but small theaters established prior to the effective date of P.L.2019, c.466 with a seating capacity between 50 and 1,000 are limited to doing so for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year.

Theater licenses are not subject to the population restriction placed on plenary retail consumption licenses (for bars and restaurants), which are limited to one for each 3,000 residents in a municipality.

This bill extends the issuance of these theater licenses to nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promoting the arts.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4873

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2023

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4873.

This bill allows the governing body of a municipality to issue a plenary retail consumption license to a person or nonprofit entity for use in connection with an art-house movie theater. The bill defines "art-house movie theater" as a theater that is principally used for showing motion pictures and is operated by a nonprofit arts organization, which demonstrates a commitment to enriching its local community by providing opportunities for participation in the arts, offering arts education opportunities, and promoting regional economic prosperity.

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to issue a special plenary retail consumption license, known as a "theater license," to a nonprofit corporation that conducts musical or theatrical performances or concerts on the licensed premises. The holder of this special license may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance and two hours prior to the performance. In addition, large and small theaters may serve alcoholic beverages during the two hours immediately following performances, but small theaters established prior to the effective date of P.L.2019, c.466 with a seating capacity between 50 and 1,000 are limited to doing so for not more than 15 performances in a calendar year.

Theater licenses are not subject to the population restriction placed on plenary retail consumption licenses (for bars and restaurants), which are limited to one for each 3,000 residents in a municipality.

This bill extends the issuance of these theater licenses to nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promoting the arts.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3328 which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified for a fiscal note.

# Governor Murphy Signs New Law Clarifying that Nonprofit Movie Theate Focused on the Arts are Eligible for Plenary Liquor Licenses

07/8/2023

**RED BANK** – Ahead of his appearance at a summer gala benefiting the iconic Count Basie Center for the Arts' Forever For Everyone endowment campaign, Governor Phil Murphy o Friday signed bill S-3328 into law, paving the way for the issuance of alcoholic beverage retail licenses for nonprofit movie theaters that enrich their local communities by promotin arts.

"Nonprofit theaters provide a world of good to our communities, but like so many other industries they have been faced with challenges, particularly since the pandemic," **said Gov Murphy.** "Treating them the same as nonprofit corporations conducting musicals or theatrical performances and allowing them to serve alcohol will enhance the entertainment experience for theater-goers while enhancing their bottom line to ensure they remain afloat and continue to benefit our communities."

The legislation sponsored by Senators Vin Gopal and Shirley K. Turner and Assemblyman Sterley S. Stanley will expand existing law – which allows municipalities to issue a plenar retail consumption license to nonprofit corporations that conduct musicals, theatrical performances, or concerts – to allow licenses to be issued to nonprofit art house movie thea as well.

"Nonprofit arts groups and venues, like other nonprofit entities, took a tough hit during the COVID-19 pandemic," **said Senator Gopal.** "This law is one way to help them recover, by allowing art-house movie theaters to enjoy the same beverage service offerings available at other nonprofit arts locations, including those that host musical and theatrical performances, as well as concerts, and to further enhance the overall experience for patrons."

"In these post-pandemic and yet still uncertain economic times, our nonprofits, including those that serve to bolster the arts, need every advantage we can provide," **said Senator Turner.** "This law will assist their efforts to enrich the cultural and entertainment opportunities for their towns and neighborhoods."

"Nonprofit arts organizations are crucial resources for the development of culture that largely defines how it feels to call a community home. In light of this, we must insure that the organizations have all reasonable options at their disposal so their communities can continue to be enriched and enfranchised by these incredibly important organization," **said Assemblyman Sterley Stanley.** "Under this legislation residents will no longer have to choose between supporting local arts organizations or having a typical night out with friends. residents will be able to enjoy a night out while also supporting the arts and contributing to the local economy."

The holder of this special license, known as a "theater license," may serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises during the performance, as well as two h prior and two hours immediately following the performance, with the exception of certain smaller theaters where the amount of times they can serve alcohol during the two-hour p show window is limited to 15 events per year.

Unlike plenary retail consumption licenses for bars and restaurants, theater licenses are not subject to the same population restriction, which limits one license for every 3,000 resi in a municipality, a Prohibition-era restriction Governor Murphy has proposed eliminating in the interest of affordability, equity, and economic development.

The nonprofit Count Basie Center for the Arts purchased the former Bow Tie Cinemas – now called the Basie Center Cinemas – in 2020 as part of its continuing mission to bring th arts to Monmouth County and ensure inclusion and access to performance arts and education for everyone through efforts such as its endowment campaign.

"This legislation is critical to the survival of our independent cinema here in Red Bank, which we took over during the pandemic to ensure this venue could continue to operate and promote the art of film," **said Adam Philipson, President and CEO of the Count Basie Center for the Arts.** "Along with the appreciation our audience will have in enjoying a glass of with their film, the revenue this new law will generate is critical to our mission. We are grateful to the Assembly, Senate and to Governor Murphy for their unanimous support of this legislation."