

Municipal Clerk's Office

Approved

Date: August 26, 2025

(S) Submitted by: Assembly Chair Constant
Assembly Vice Chair Brawley

(S) Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office

(S) Reviewed by: Office of Assembly Counsel
For reading: August 26, 2025

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-85(S)**

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REPEALING AND**
2 **REPLACING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 10.50.010 AND**
3 **10.50.037 REGARDING THE BAR SAFETY HOUR PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE**
4 **THE APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND ISSUANCE PROCESSES; AND**
5 **DISCONTINUE THE CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE ASSEMBLY[; ~~AND~~**
6 **~~ADDING A BAR SAFETY HOUR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT].~~**

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8 **WHEREAS**, the bar safety hour program history includes updates to clarify the
9 requirements of the permit, discussions of rescinding the program, and
10 discontinuation of the program sunset clause with the industry submitting testimony in
11 favor of the permit; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, the bar safety hour permit program has shown that the permitting
14 process is not necessary for the number of beverage dispensary licensees who apply
15 for it; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, a free registration program could incentivize more bars to sign up and
18 would streamline operations, reduce staff time spent on fee collection and processing
19 while still maintaining essential oversight; now, therefore,

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21 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

22
23 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code 10.50.037 is hereby repealed in its entirety
24 and replaced with the following: *(requiring no legislative formatting)*

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26 **10.50.037 Bar safety hour ~~[registration].~~**

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28 A. *Bar safety hour ~~[registration]~~*: Premises licensed by the state for the
29 service and consumption of alcoholic beverages may ~~[register to]~~
30 participate in bar safety hour **and ~~[to]~~** remain open for persons to
31 consume food or nonalcoholic beverages between the hours of 3:00
32 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday or on a legal holiday
33 recognized by the state under AS 44.12.010.

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35 **1[2].** *Requirements and restrictions.* The following requirements and
36 restrictions apply to licensees operating during the bar safety
37 hour, in addition to other requirements and restrictions specified
38 for licensees in state or local law:

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40 a. ~~[The registration for bar safety hour shall be kept by~~
41 ~~the clerk and, once a licensee has been added to the~~
42 ~~registration, they will remain on the registration until~~

~~removal is requested by the licensee. A list of all participating licensees and establishment names shall be sent by the clerk to the Anchorage Police Department (APD), Municipal Code Enforcement, and Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) Enforcement annually.~~

b.] Premises interior lighting shall be maintained at full brightness during the bar safety hour.

b[e]. Entertainment and music of any kind are prohibited during the bar safety hour.

c[d]. No alcoholic beverages may be sold, served or consumed during the bar safety hour.

2[3]. ~~[Procedures to approve or deny bar safety hour registration. Upon receipt of a registration request, the clerk will:~~

~~a. Verify the licensee is in good standing with the ABC Board;~~

~~b. Consult with APD for certification that it is appropriate for the licensee to participate in the bar safety hour;~~

~~c. Add licensee and establishment name to the bar safety hour registration list. Any change to a licensee or establishment name must be reported by the licensee to the clerk; and~~

~~d. If a registration request is denied, or if it is found that a licensee on the registration has not complied with the restrictions under A.2. through interactions with APD or Municipal Code Enforcement and removal from the registration is recommended, the clerk shall inform the licensee in writing of the decision and the reasons for it. A request for an informal meeting with the clerk may be submitted by the licensee, to review the denial or removal from the registration for the purpose to rescind the Clerk's decision. After the informal meeting, the decision may be appealed to the Administrative Hearing Office.~~

~~e. This section shall not apply to, nor shall it be construed to supersede, any specific provision of this title already permitting or requiring administrative or quasi-judicial hearings to determine the specific rights and privileges of any individual or~~

~~to review the legality, appropriateness or wisdom of administrative action permitted in this title.]~~

3[4]. *Restaurant endorsements.* Nothing in this section requires [a] premises licensed by the State for the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages that hold[s] a current restaurant endorsement to ~~[register for the bar safety hour in order to]~~ remain open and serve food or nonalcoholic beverages between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sunday, or legal holidays recognized by the state under AS 44.12.010.

4[5]. *Enforcement.* APD, Municipal Code Enforcement, and AMCO enforcement shall have the authority to enforce this section and write and serve civil citations for violations of the provisions of sections 10.50.010 and 10.50.016.

~~[6. —Registration. Licensees participating in the bar safety hour shall request to be added to the registration list and are responsible for notifying the clerk when they want to be removed from the registration.]~~

(AO No. 2023-71, § 10, 6-20-23)

Section 2. The existing text of Anchorage Municipal Code section 10.50.037 being repealed under this ordinance is attached as Exhibit A, in accordance with Anchorage Municipal Code subsection 1.05.050B.

Section 3. {NOTE: This section is newly added in the (S) version} Anchorage Municipal Code section 10.50.010 is hereby amended as follows (the remainder of the section is not affected and not set out):

10.50.010 - Closing hours for licensed premises.

*** *** ***

B. *Extended hours of operation:* The following premises may remain open, but not serve, or allow consumption of, alcoholic beverages, between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday or on a legal holiday recognized by the state under AS 44.12.010:

1. *Restaurant endorsement:* Premises licensed by the state provided the licensee possesses a valid restaurant endorsement from the board; or
2. *Bar safety hour [PERMIT]:* Premises licensed by the state and electing to participate in [PROVIDED THE LICENSEE POSSESSES A VALID] bar safety hour **[PERMIT]** under section 10.50.035[D].
 - a. Licensed premises with a title 21 alcohol special land use permit requiring closure prior to 3:00 a.m. are not eligible

to participate in [FOR A] bar safety hour [PERMIT]
under this section.

(CAC 6.08.010; AO No. 81-35(S); AO No. 81-197; AO No. 2013-42, § 1, 4-11-13; AO No. 2013-86(S), § 2, 8-6-13; AO No. 2023-71, § 4, 6-20-23; AO No. 2024-62, § 1, 6-11-24)

~~**[The registration requirement shall begin immediately for new establishments registering and upon expiration of the bar safety hour permit currently held by any establishments.]**~~

~~**Section 4. The clerk shall notify all establishments that currently hold a bar safety hour permit that they are required to register for the new bar safety hour registration 30 days prior to the expiration of their permit.**~~

Section 5.] This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 26th day of August, 2025.

Christopher Constant

ATTEST:

Chair

Jamie King

Municipal Clerk

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**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM 631-2025

Meeting Date: August 26, 2025

From: Assembly Chair Constant and Vice Chair Brawley

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REPEALING AND REPLACING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 10.50.010 AND 10.50.037 REGARDING THE BAR SAFETY HOUR PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE THE APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND ISSUANCE PROCESSES; AND DISCONTINUE THE CLERK’S ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE ASSEMBLY[-; AND ADDING A BAR SAFETY HOUR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT].

This proposed substitute (S) version amends the original ordinance to leave the bar safety hour program in place, while removing the requirement for participating establishments to register with the Municipality. As written in the original version, the registry requirement provides the Clerk’s Office and the Administration no discernable benefit and creates barriers to licensee participation. Additionally, the removal of the registry in no way inhibits the Municipality’s ability to enforce the requirements of the bar safety hour, and any establishment found in violation would be at risk of all the same enforcement measures that exist now or would exist under the original version. The (S) version also adds a new AO Section 3 to include AMC section 10.50.010, Closing hours for licensed premises, in order to also amend its text to align with the changes to AMC 10.50.037. Under this new scheme, the Bar Safety Hour would be available for any licensed establishment to opt in or out of, provided they adhere to the prohibitions on music, service of alcohol, and the requirements for full lighting.

The bar safety hour program has been in place since 2013, and, since that time, general feedback has been that it has been effective, but only a few bars have gone through the process to apply for and maintain this permit. This proposed S version will make the program more available for bars who choose to use it and remove red tape. Under this new scheme, we anticipate that, if there are issues with an establishment not following the code, such as serving after 3 a.m. or continuing entertainment right up until closing time, the Administration will remain capable of addressing these violations through the existing enforcement process, without needing the permit process existing now or the registration proposed in the original.

We request your support for the ordinance.

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel’s Office

Respectfully submitted: Chris Constant, Assembly Chair
District 1 – North Anchorage

Anna Brawley, Assembly Vice Chair
District 3 – West Anchorage