

PRESS RELEASE



Anchorage Assembly Approves Temporary Expansion of Licensed Premises for Onsite Alcohol Consumption

June 22, 2022

At last night's Regular Anchorage Assembly Meeting, the Anchorage Assembly voted 9-0 to approve Anchorage Ordinance 2022-68, an ordinance co-sponsored by Assembly Members Suzanne LaFrance, Christopher Constant and Forrest Dunbar allowing the temporary expansion of licensed premises for onsite alcohol consumption.

"This measure is an important piece of the Assembly's *A New Day for Anchorage* jobs and economic plan to cut red tape for businesses and expand economic opportunities. The pandemic presented a unique need for restaurants, bars and breweries to increase outdoor seating and safely accommodate more customers," said Assembly Chair LaFrance. "While the emergency declaration that justified the 2021 waiver has expired, the economic benefits of expanded premises should not come to an end."

"The process to increase outdoor seating at establishments serving alcohol is long, costly and frustrating for business owners," said Assembly Budget and Finance Committee Co-Chair Dunbar. "Alaskan summers offer real economic opportunity for local businesses. This ordinance is a common-sense solution to extend the waiver to expedite the process until May 2023 so that the municipality can take time to modernize liquor licensing in outdoor spaces and make government work for Anchorage's local businesses."

Eligible businesses applying for the waiver will be required to seek approval by the Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, as well as an approved application for a Temporary Use of Outdoor Areas permit.

To confirm eligibility before submitting a waiver application, businesses may contact the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office at alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov or 907-269-0350 to complete a Licensed Premises Diagram Change through Form AB-14. To learn more about the waiver and submission process, eligible businesses may contact Sonnet Calhoun, Municipal Zoning and Land Use Review Division Manager, at sonnet.calhoun@anchorageak.gov or 907-343-8353.

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