



COLORADO
Department of Revenue
Specialized Business Group—
Liquor & Tobacco

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Liquor Advisory Group State and Local Proposal Update

August 2, 2023

As the Director of the Liquor Enforcement Division, I deeply believe it is my duty and responsibility to actively listen to all perspectives and find fair and reasonable solutions to the concerns facing the industries we regulate. Over the past several days, I have spoken to some of our local partners, received valuable feedback, and realized there may be some need for more clarity regarding Liquor Advisory Group proposal 20(b). I would like to take this opportunity to explain or clarify the reasons for the proposal.

First and foremost, the Division respects and supports local licensing control, and this is not an effort to remove or reduce those privileges. The state is a partner in the liquor licensing and enforcement process, and we see the outstanding job our local partners do communicating and regulating their respective jurisdictions. Together, we would like to create a smoother process for all parties so we can meet customer expectations and the industries we regulate can thrive in our beautiful and innovative state. The goal of proposal 20(b) would be to ensure the Division has the rulemaking authority to begin this process of active problem-solving and solution orientation, which we may not have under the current statute.

Proposal 20(b) would provide the Liquor Enforcement Division rulemaking authority in specific statutes addressing new liquor license applications, transfer applications, renewals and (by stakeholder suggestion) premises modifications. Once the Division has this statutory authority, we envision meeting publicly with our local licensing partners and liquor stakeholders during our next spring and summer rulemaking sessions to discuss the implementation of timelines in rule. Any rule implemented in this process must receive a majority consensus from the local licensing partners. If a majority consensus is not reached, the topic would be tabled and revisited during the following year's rulemaking process when additional public meetings would be held.

In order to maximize the participation of local partners in this rulemaking process, the Division intends to:

- LED would send out a survey to all local licensing authority jurisdictions before rulemaking to receive ideas and feedback regarding this topic and share feedback.
- Establish small working groups to develop concepts to bring to the larger rulemaking process.
- Ensure outreach to all local licensing partners via listserv, email, virtual or in-person brainstorming sessions.

We encourage any other ideas or suggestions that would improve this engagement.

We hope that our local partners can provide honest and open feedback at the next Liquor Advisory Group meeting tomorrow, August 3, 2023, via [Zoom](#) so that we can find possible solutions in exchange for information and a smoother transition of license issuance for our customers. As the Director of the Liquor Enforcement Division, I am honored to work with our various stakeholders. It is my duty and responsibility to listen to all perspectives actively. I revel in collaborating and finding innovative solutions while discovering a fair and reasonable outcome for all our customers.

Respectfully,

Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division