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Town of Mead

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Topic: Proposal 20(a)

Being from a small town, I'm concerned about the proposals to add statutory language requiring local licensing authorities to transmit applications within certain timeframes. In a small town, we do not always have the same resources as larger municipalities which hinder our ability to complete processing in the same time frame. For example, if a liquor application comes in on payroll week or on a big Board meeting day, it will get set aside for a few days before we can get back to it. We are constantly balancing and adjusting our priorities. In addition, we work with outside entities who provide input into our licensing decisions. For example, we request input from the local fire department, county health department and police for inspections and code compliance. These are outside entities and, oftentimes, we follow up more than once to get a response.

Another issue comes if we have to set a file for hearing, which is required for all new applications and in some instances transfers and modifications. According to statute, the hearing is set at least 30 days out. But even if that weren't in statute, it generally is at least 30 days before I can get a hearing on the agenda. Our Board only meets twice per month, so my most common time frame to get something on an agenda for hearing is about 45 days from intake.

I also want to state that I've seen comments about delays in processing, but I have not experienced those. In my nine years here in Mead, I've generally experienced quick turnaround time from the LED on new licenses (I've only had concurrent reviews), renewals and modifications. The only issue I had was when LED switched over to MOVEIT. I did not have an account yet and did not know that something got sent there. It took me a few contacts to the LED to find out where the issued license was.