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### **Topic:** Proposal for Consolidation of Lodging & Entertainment License Type

The live entertainment industry was one of the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic. Live entertainment venues were the first to close and the last to reopen. This industry is a vital facet of Colorado's economy and culture. Yet many live entertainment venues face a major barrier in obtaining proper liquor licensing. Entertainment venues have to conform to restaurant licensing requirements which don't fit the venue's business or operations. We are proposing a solution to this problem. Our proposal would:

- 1) Create a new entertainment venue liquor license to be issued separate from a regular restaurant license. This new license will be specific to live entertainment venues, removing administrative time and costs that currently exist when a venue tries to conform to a restaurant license to sell alcohol. There would not be a food requirement above the need to sell "snacks."
- 2) Create a single State of Colorado "Entertainment Venue Liquor Licensing Authority" which would streamline the licensing process for non-restaurant entertainment venues.

California recently enacted a bill (attached) to achieve a similar end. The California law creates "a new entertainment venue liquor license to reduce unnecessary burdens on these venues." California venues had to conform to the qualifications of a restaurant license, requiring a full kitchen and food service. The new law authorizes the state licensing authority to issue a new entertainment venue liquor license separate from a regular restaurant license. This new license will be specific to live entertainment venues, removing administrative time and costs that currently exist when a venue tries to conform to a restaurant license to sell alcohol.