The Division has received the following comments via the Liquor Enforcement Division Rulemaking email. The Division will respond to certain parties' comments should the Division implement their recommendations into the rule.

Elizabeth Bennett

Public Advocacy Coordinator

Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets, Inc. DBA: Natural Grocers

February 19th, 2025

As the LED continues developing the regulatory language, please consider the following proposal for the SUD Recovery Taskforce:

2. A *"permanent alcohol display"* are the shelves, aisle(s), cooler(s) or display(s) where alcohol beverages are located within a single distinct area of the licensed premises that is <u>consistent with</u> the diagram submitted with the application or modification of a licensed premises.

Sometimes it is not possible to put all alcohol (for instance, beer coolers and shelved wine) in a single space. Smaller footprint retailers need more flexibility, and it is our perception that, as long as it is consistent with the diagram that we have submitted, these permanent displays are still in compliance with the LED. This matches with the goals of the recovery community as it still contains alcohol to its own specific area(s) with a consistent location that they can plan to avoid if needed.

There are many existing floor plans that have alcohol in two distinct locations depending on the needs of that beverage type for either coolers or shelving units. To move the coolers or permanent shelving fixtures would require significant expenditures.

By removing the need for the permanent diagram to restrict alcohol to a single location, you provide regulators the ability to confirm the need of small footprint stores that may or may not have the ability to combine shelved beverages and those that are kept in coolers.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

-E