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City of Aurora

August 16, 2023 Comment

Topic: 2 consideration items - Hearings, Fees

I would like to submit two topics for consideration by the LAG. First on new license applications changing the requirement in statute that a public hearing must be held to one that it may be held, similar to a special event in CRS 44-5-107(3) or modification of premise application. Most new applications are unopposed, for jurisdictions that choose to forgo a hearing if it is not warranted, this would reduce administrative burden for all parties and shorten licensing time frames.

Second item of consideration is removal of all state and local fee amounts and fee caps from statutory language. Putting them in statute sets those amounts in stone and makes any fee increase a political element requiring passage of a bill by the general assembly. This has resulted in fee caps not changing for extended periods of time, perhaps in decades. This can result in fees or revenue sources elsewhere being used to subsidize areas where fees are inadequate to cover costs. It can also prevent appropriate staffing, hiring and systems that allow licensing agencies to be responsive to customers. A suggestion if language could be along the lines of "fees no more than are adequate to cover costs" or no language at all. Then fees could be adjusted with time and inflation utilizing cost recovery models.