



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE

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Transmitted via email
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February 17, 2025

The Honorable Zack Fields and The Honorable Carolyn Hall
And members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Advisory Opinion SB 15

Dear Representatives:

I write to provide the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board's ("ABC Board's" or "Board's") advisory opinion – as permitted under AS 04.06.090(h) – on SB 15, a bill providing for the sale of alcohol by persons under 21 and amends the warning sign requirements for alcoholic beverage licensed premises to require the posting of a cancer warnings. We reached this opinion by a unanimous vote at our most recent board meeting on February 4, 2025, in Juneau, Alaska.

First, we thank this Committee for considering this bill. The Board regularly discusses the challenges facing alcoholic beverage licensees. Post Covid, this includes the lack of the return of a full work force to restaurants and other licensed premises, making many of the licensees unable to provide the expected levels of customer service to its patrons. One way to address this shortage is to expand the labor pool by permitting some activities by 18-, 19-, and 20-year-old employees.

SB 15 accomplishes this by amending AS 04.16.049(d), access by persons under the age of 21 to licensed premises. Under the bill, these younger employees would be permitted to sell, serve, deliver, or dispense alcoholic beverages.

The ABC Board supports this new accommodation to industry with suggested amendments. We request a change to reflect an immediate effective date for hiring ages to ensure the critical labor shortage is addressed prior to the upcoming tourist season. Secondly, we request a July 1 or 90-day effective date for signage to ensure adequate time for new posters to be printed and distributed to all licensees and avoid a situation of immediate non-compliance upon adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to express both our support and suggestions for amendments to SB 15. On behalf of the Board, I look forward to further dialogue with this Committee and to answering any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

/s. Dana Walukiewicz/

Dana Walukiewicz

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Chair

cc: Kevin Richard, AMCO Director
Lizzie Kubitz, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison
Julie Sande, Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
Development