



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
95 Fourth Street, Suite 3
Chelsea, MA 02150*

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq.
Chairman

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION (“ABCC”) ADVISORY
REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO ADD OUTDOOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
TABLE SERVICE AREAS**

On April 30, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed into law “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2024 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects.” The text of the law can be found [HERE](#).

ABCC approval is no longer required for amendments to add outdoor alcoholic beverage table service areas¹. Licensees should contact their Local Licensing Authority “LLA” with any questions and apply directly with them. Nothing in the new law prevents the ABCC “from exercising [its] enforcement authority over an amended license nor limit(s) any appeals that can be submitted to the commission pursuant to section 67 of chapter 138.”

Local Boards must provide the ABCC notice of any amended license and can do so by submitting an updated Licensing Authority Certification form describing the entire licensed premises, including but not limited to the newly approved outdoor alcoholic beverage table service area(s).

On April 7, 2022, the ABCC approved Guidelines for Outdoor Alcoholic Beverage Service Areas which can be found [HERE](#).

Indoor alteration of premises amendments still require ABCC approval and must comply with the “Liquor Control Act” (M.G.L. c. 138) including but not limited to advertisement, abutters’ notification requirements and Local Board hearing.

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law.

Questions concerning this Advisory may be directed to Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission at (617) 727- 3040 x 731.

(Issued 5/1/2024)

¹ “Outdoor table service,” is defined as restaurant service that includes food prepared on-site and under a food establishment permit issued by a municipal authority pursuant to 105 CMR 590.00 that is served to seated diners outside the restaurant building envelope, whether on a sidewalk, patio, deck, lawn, parking area or other outdoor space.