

Adopted: 02/16/21

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 21-017**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF CHANGES TO STATE LAW TO ALLOW FOR MORE LOCAL CONTROL OVER ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSING.

WHEREAS, Article X of the Alaska State Constitution references the intent of "maximum local self-government"; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of alcohol beverage licenses and permits within organized municipalities in the state is regulated by Title 4 of the Alaska State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, under Alaska Statutes Title 4, local municipalities are provided the opportunity to object to the issuance or renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses and permits within their jurisdiction, but otherwise have no authority in the issuance, number or type of licenses or permits; and

WHEREAS, in stark contrast, marijuana regulations provide for maximum local self-government by giving local municipalities the authority to determine whether to allow marijuana establishments within its border, and if allowed, the number and types of establishments to be permitted; and

WHEREAS, the same level of local control is not afforded to municipalities when it comes to regulating alcoholic beverage licenses and permits under Alaska Statutes Title 4; and

WHEREAS, local control is the preferred method of regulating, controlling and managing socially affected economic issues; and

WHEREAS, providing a mechanism for municipalities to determine the appropriate number and types of alcoholic beverage licenses and permits within their community will provide for more effective regulation of licenses and permits across our vast and diverse state; and

WHEREAS, any arguments concerning the ability for local municipal control of alcoholic beverage licensing to be effective are specious because local control over marijuana (which remains illegal under federal law) has been effective in those municipalities which have decided to regulate marijuana; and

WHEREAS, current monopolistic and archaic regulations stifle economic development of any business where any part of that business models relies on alcohol sales; and

WHEREAS, the development of restaurants, retailers, and hotels and whether those businesses should have the ability to sell alcoholic beverages should be a matter of local control which can be addressed, licensed, and adjusted as needed within municipalities across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, either delegating the power to municipalities, or providing a mechanism for municipalities to determine the appropriate number and types of alcoholic beverage licenses and permits within their community, will provide for more effective

regulation of licenses and permits across our vast and diverse state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough supports changes to state law to allow for more local control over alcohol beverage licensing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at a minimum, municipalities should have the option to able to determine the appropriate number and types of alcoholic beverage licenses and permits in their communities.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 16 day of February, 2021.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and Boeve