

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

**Date:** February 24, 2021

**To:** Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

**From:** Janet Stocco, Legislative Analyst

**LD 378**      **An Act To Temporarily Waive Renewal Fees for On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses** (*Senator Luchini*) - Emergency

---

**SUMMARY**

This bill, which is an emergency measure, temporarily waives the license-renewal fees for establishments licensed to sell liquor for on-premises consumption during calendar year 2021.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The chart attached to this bill analysis sets for the annual fees applicable to on-premises retail licensees.

**ISSUES RAISED / AMENDMENTS PROPOSED AT PUBLIC HEARING**

- **BABLO Proposed Amendment - Timing of fee waiver.** Rather than waiving the license-renewal fees for on-premises retailers during calendar year 2021—which would require BABLO to issue refunds for any license-renewal fees paid between the beginning of the year and the effective date of this emergency legislation—BABLO proposes amending the bill to provide for waiver of license-renewal fees for one year, beginning on a specific date after the effective date of the bill.
- **BABLO Proposed Amendment - Extension of Licenses.** Because on-premises liquor licensees were prohibited from providing dine-in service between March 18 and June 16 of 2020, as a result of the Governor’s Executive Orders during the coronavirus state of emergency, BABLO reports that it has been working with on-premises retailers to extend the expiration date of their liquor licenses. BABLO suggested amending LD 378 to provide in law for such a one-time, 90-day extension of the expiration date for all on-premises liquor licenses.
- **NECSEMA Proposed Amendment - Off-premises retailers.** The New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association requested that the bill’s one-year waiver of license-renewal fees be extended to establishments licensed to sell liquor for **off-premises** consumption.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Not yet determined - but there necessarily will be a loss of licensing fee revenue.

**Licensed on-premises retailers:**  
**Annual liquor license fees**

Type of Establishment	Class	Type of liquor	Annual fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airlines,</li> <li>• Auditoriums,</li> <li>• Bowling Centers,</li> <li>• Civic Auditoriums,</li> <li>• Class A restaurants,</li> <li>• Clubs with catering privileges,</li> <li>• Disc golf courses,</li> <li>• Golf courses,</li> <li>• Hotels (serve food),</li> <li>• Indoor ice skating clubs,</li> <li>• Indoor racquet clubs,</li> <li>• Performing arts centers,</li> <li>• Qualified catering services,</li> <li>• Railroad corporations, and</li> <li>• Vessel corporations</li> </ul>	<b><u>Options:</u></b> <i>May purchase any combination of these licenses.</i>		
	Class I	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$900
	Class II	Spirits only	\$550
	Class III	Wine only	\$220
	Class IV	Malt liquor only	\$220
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor stadiums</li> <li>• Pool halls</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> </ul>	<b><u>Options:</u></b> <i>May purchase either or both of these licenses.</i>		
	Class III	Wine only	\$220
	Class IV	Malt liquor only	\$220
• Curling clubs	Class III	Wine only	\$220
• Taverns	Class IV	Malt liquor only	\$220
• Hotels (do not serve food)	Class I-A	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$1,100
• Bed and breakfasts	<b><u>Options:</u></b> <i>May purchase any combination of these licenses.</i>		
	Class III	Wine only	\$220
	Class IV	Malt liquor only	\$220
	Class V	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$495
• Clubs without catering privileges	Class V	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$495
• Class A lounge	Class X	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$2,200
• Class A restaurant/lounge	Class XI	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$1,500
• Auxiliary location at ski area, golf course or disc golf course	Other	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$100
• Golf course or disc golf course mobile service bar	Other	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$100
• Hotel (that has another liquor license)	Minibar license	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$100 + \$5 per room
• Hotel (that does not have another liquor license)	Minibar license	Spirits, wine & malt liquor	\$200 + \$10 per room

Note: per-event (as opposed to annual) on-premises liquor license fees are not listed in the chart above.