

## SB 165 – Alcoholic Beverages Reform

SB 165 will change several aspects of Alaska alcohol laws (Title 4). After an extensive three-year process in which representatives from the alcohol industry, social services, public health, public safety, and other stakeholder groups participated in research and discussions, a set of recommendations were released, some of which are incorporated into SB 165.

SB 165 as the first step to reforming Alaska’s alcohol statutes to bring about meaningful change that is rational and informed.

### **ASK: Support adding seats to the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board that support Public Health, Public Safety, and Rural representation.**

- The new configuration of the board promotes offers balanced representation. With this configuration, the law can be more properly followed.
- The current composition is two industry and three public members (including one rural member). The proposed composition proposed in SB 165 is two industry members, one public health member, one public safety member, and one rural public member.
- Public Health and Public Safety are represented on the Marijuana Control (MC) Board, why shouldn’t they also be represented on the ABC Board?

### **ASK: Support changes to minor consuming laws that provide for a fine instead of a misdemeanor, which can be offset by substance abuse treatment. This is a better way to ensure consistent and effective enforcement of minor consuming laws.**

- The current law regarding minor consuming alcohol (MCA) is difficult to enforce and often results in additional legal problems for minors.
- Discussions during the stakeholder workgroup process identified numerous barriers to successful reduction of minor consuming, including penalties that burden a youth’s future ability to possess a driver’s license and/or gain employment, and other factors contributing to the minor doing worse, instead of better.
- Stakeholders identified the value of rehabilitation over punishment for young people who are still developing values and forming behavioral patterns, as a way to address one of the barriers that promotes failure.

- SB 165 changes the penalty for a minor consuming alcohol from a misdemeanor to a violation, punishable by a fine of \$500, which must be charged and filed with the court as a separate case. The fine may be reduced by a court to \$50 if the minor supplies proof of completion of an alcohol safety action program, or community diversion program.

### ***Additional recommendations in SB 165***

- SB 165 permits minors to be at clubs if no alcohol beverages are present or if the person has an active duty military card. It also identifies circumstances under which minors may be employed on premises with an alcohol license, and allows minors to be on premises of a golf course where alcohol is served for the purpose of playing golf, and allows minors 18-20 years of age to be employed at the golf course, provided they do not sell, serve, deliver, or dispense alcoholic beverages.
- SB 165 modifies the warning signs on licensed premises where alcohol is sold.
- SB 165 bars the court system from publishing the records of a minor on Courtview, or other publicly-available websites, if the violation was charged separately and was not joined with another minor offense or criminal charge.
- SB 165 amends the restrictions on driver's licenses to person under 18.
- SB 165 repeals various sections in state law that deal with denial, cancellation, or non-renewal of insurance for minor consuming violations, and court revocation of a minor's driver's license.