

Offered by Councilors Brian Worrell and Ruthzee Louijeune, Ricardo Arroyo, Bok, Breadon, Flaherty Louijeune, Mejia, Murphy and Flynn

CITY OF BOSTON



IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

HOME RULE PETITION

- WHEREAS*, The ability to sell liquor provides a significant boost in income to small businesses; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Due to the cap on liquor licenses in the City of Boston, many of the City's neighborhood restaurants have difficulty or are unable to obtain a liquor license; thereby, making it difficult for smaller, neighborhood restaurants to open and be successful; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The well-documented racial wealth gap in Boston shows that it is crucial for MWBE's to have equitable access to liquor licenses in order to advance economic equity; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Neighborhoods such as Mattapan only have 10 out of the 1,432 liquor licenses in the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Dorchester Ave has 24 non-retail liquor licenses and Blue Hill Ave has 6; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Having licenses designated for the City's neighborhoods and creating new licenses specifically for small businesses and certain developments will address disparities within the current system and will keep pace with the population growth. ***THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED*, That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:
AN ACT AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES IN BOSTON.**

Section 1.

Notwithstanding Section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws or any other law, rule, regulation, or provision to the contrary, and in addition to any other license authorized by this act, the licensing board for the city of Boston may grant up to 200 non-transferable all-alcohol liquor licenses over a three year period for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to section 12 of said chapter 138. A license granted under this act shall be limited to businesses with a total capacity of 50 or under as determined by the Inspectional Services Department and the Boston Fire Department. Should the capacity be determined by the foregoing conflict, the lesser of the two capacities shall govern for purposes of this legislation. A license issued under this section, if canceled or revoked, shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights, privileges and restrictions pertaining thereto, to the licensing board which may then grant that license to a new applicant under the same conditions as specified in this section if the applicant files with the licensing board.

The licenses authorized under the preceding paragraph shall be distributed in the following neighborhoods: Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and Hyde Park pursuant to the City of Boston Zoning Code.

Section 2.

All liquor licenses in the City of Boston shall increase by at least 10% over a ten year period.

Section 3.

The provisions of this act shall be effective upon passage.

Filed in Council: April 1, 2022