



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Government Operations
Ricardo Arroyo, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 29, 2022

Dear Councilors:

Docket #0435, Petition for a Special Law re: An Act Authorizing the City of Boston to Grant Four Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Specified Premises, was sponsored by Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Julia Mejia and referred to the Committee on March 30, 2022. The Committee held a hearing on June 16, 2022 where public comment was taken.

Summary of Legislation As Filed:

Docket #0435 is a home rule petition that would grant four additional for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building ("Bolling Building"). The licenses granted under this act would be restricted to the Bolling Building. The licenses would also be non-transferable to any other person, corporation or organization and clearly marked "Bolling Building restricted" and "non-transferable" on its face. The licenses would be subject to the provisions of chapter 138 of the General Laws except section 17. A license granted under this act that is canceled, revoked, or no longer in use will be returned physically with all legal rights to the licensing board and the licensing board may then grant to a new applicant in the Bolling Building.

Information Gathered at the Hearing:

The Chair summarized the legislation. The following individuals participated on behalf of the Administration: Kathleen Joyce, Esq., Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing; and Chairwoman of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston; Danny Green, Executive Secretary of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston; Aliesha Porcena, Director of Small Business for the City of Boston; and Midori Morikawa, Interim Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston. Councilors offered opening remarks and expressed support for the docket. The Committee discussed amending the docket to include one license for the Strand Theater which will be restricted.

Administration officials offered testimony in support of the legislation. Administration officials expressed support for the additional licenses as a means to build generational wealth. Administration officials explained that the licenses are assigned to the City and that there are no costs except for the fees.

Industry representatives expressed support of Docket #0435 and discussed the value of liquor licenses to restaurants and its impact on profits. The Committee heard comments from the public supporting Docket #0435.

Summary of Amendments:

Based upon information gathered at the hearing, Docket #0435 is amended to grant five additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages for specified premises. The addition of a fifth license will be for the Strand Theater and it will be restricted.

Rationale and Recommended Action:

Passage of this docket will allow the licensing board to grant five additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages for specified premises. Four of the licenses are for the Bolling Building and one of the licenses is for the Strand Theater. All of these licenses are not transferable and are restricted to the specific location. Passage of this home rule petition in its amended draft will provide equity, improve the quality of life in the surrounding communities, and will allow the entities to attract businesses and events.

By the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #0435, Petition for a Special Law re: An Act Authorizing the City of Boston to Grant Four Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Specified Premises,

submits a report recommending that this docket **ought to pass in a new draft**.

For the Chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ra', followed by a horizontal line.

Ricardo Arroyo, Chair
Committee on Government Operations