



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

DATE: April 10, 2024

FROM: Joan M. Wilson

RE: Director's Report

I. INTRODUCTION

Four and one-half months from the initial implementation date of the Title 4 Rewrite, the AMCO office is still in the trenches. Our online licensing system is operating, but still not completely functional. The transition from paper to electronic applications has been a struggle for many licensees so licensing staff has been divided between assisting licensees to enroll and examining applications. We are farther behind in processing renewals than we can recall as a result. Our Enforcement team is doing well, but the personnel steps needed to create two supervisory lines are still in development. All this is to say that this is a difficult time for the office, but we continue to make forward progress. This report summarizes this status and identifies goals going forward.

II. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. LICENSING

Ms. Sawyer and I expect to be able to introduce the new Records and Licensing supervisor for alcohol licensing at this meeting. With this internal promotion, we will have two licensing examiner positions open. Our recruitment for those positions will be open shortly. Ms. Cruz will continue to assist with supervision until the individual can be fully trained. This shortfall in staffing is greatly impacting our review. Ms. Sawyer and the new supervisor will identify our greatest challenges, including difficulties in gathering statistics for your review. However, we will also discuss solutions, both short-term and long-term, for the same.

B. ENFORCEMENT

Investigator Bankowski currently serves as Acting Special Investigator 2 for the AMCO Enforcement Unit. We will soon be recruiting for this position on a permanent basis. Once that position is filled, AMCO will continue its efforts to create a second special investigator 2 position within this unit, with one position specifically overseeing alcoholic beverage licensees and the other marijuana licensees.

AMCO Enforcement has begun issuing uniform citations for violation of AS 04. At times, the unit also issues notices of violation, particularly if an initial citation is not against a licensee. At this meeting, we intend to provide examples to the Board to ensure it aligns with Board enforcement authorities.

Last, AMCO has received a number of questions from the public and legislators about the need or lack thereof for alcoholic beverage permits for private events, such as weddings that are held at certain venues. AMCO is updating its frequently asked questions to better answer these questions. We will present those answers to you for input to again ensure they comply with the Board's interpretation of guiding statute and regulation.

C. LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Two additional bills have been introduced since the Board's last meeting impacting Title 4. These are:

[HB 298: An Act Relating to the Posting of Warning Signs for Alcoholic Beverages](#)

[SB 213: An Act Relating to Local Option Elections](#)

The Board may consider issuing advisory opinions on these bills.

III. CONCLUSION

The next Alcoholic Beverage Control Board meeting is June 26 -27, 2024 in Utqiagvik, Alaska.