

Alaska State Legislature



Interim:
716 West 4th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 269-0199

Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4945

Senator Kevin Meyer
Senate District O

SB 234 SPONSOR STATEMENT

TITLE: “An Act extending the termination date of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and providing for an effective date.”

[AS 04.06.010](#) established the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC Board) and provided for the appointment of members by the governor. The ABC Board consists of five members appointed by the governor and confirmed by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. Two members of the board shall be persons actively engaged in the alcoholic beverage industry; at least three members of the board shall represent the general public.

SB 234, if enacted, would extend the ABC Board for one year to June 30, 2011.

In the opinion of Legislative Audit, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC Board) should continue to regulate the manufacture, sale, barter, and possession of alcoholic beverages in Alaska in order to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare. The Board has demonstrated a need for its continued existence by providing protection to the general public through the issuance, renewal, revocation, and suspension of liquor licenses. Protection has also been provided through active investigation of suspected licensing violations and enforcement of the state’s alcoholic beverage control laws and regulations.

During the review process of the sunset audit, there were questions raised about the decision of the Legislature to move the ABC Board from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Public Safety. These questions should be asked and the issue investigated in depth. This one year extension will give the Legislature time over the interim of 2010 to review the decision and move forward with extending the Board to 2014 as recommended by the Division of Legislative Audit.

Additionally, CSSB 234 (FIN) includes the provisions to eliminate the Executive Director’s tie-breaking voting on the Board, increase the access to the statewide alcohol purchase database by the subjects of that data, and eliminates the use of underage persons in the use of compliance checks.