

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR PETER MICCICHE
SENATE DISTRICT O

SB 16 Sponsor Statement **31-LS0283\G**

Save the Alaska State Fair Act

An Act relating to certain alcoholic beverage licenses and permits; and relating to the bond requirement for certain alcoholic beverage license holders.

In 2017, the Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board began to “crack down” on alcohol licenses that they deemed to not be intended under state law, placing at risk several long-time licenses important to the Alaska public. One of those license types issued under the recreational site category is the license held by the Alaska State Fair. The Alaska State Fair and other businesses have been operating under the recreational site license since 1981, and the loss of the ability to serve at the annual event would be financially devastating to the State Fair. Through the legislative process, we identified several other licenses that we believe should be held harmless, and thus included them in the latest committee substitute.

The two new license types and two new permit types would be added in to AS 04.11 to specifically include a performing arts theater license, a fair license, a concert permit and a music festival permit. SB 16 also clarifies that skiing and snowboarding activities are allowable under a recreational site license, which has been historically permissible until 2018. The legislation also expands the number of special events at a fraternal organization, grandfathers in certain operators as of December 31, 2018, and provides an incentive for operators that file and pay their taxes in a timely manner.

Although there remains an effort to update the remainder of Alaska’s Title 4 alcohol statutes, this specific bill is designed to protect the ability of our beloved Alaska State Fair and other traditionally licensed entities to operate as they have for many years.

We believe that the public will be better served by specifically clarifying Title 4 under Senate Bill 16 to provide the ability for the ABC Board to license and manage these specific applications. We respectfully ask for Legislative and public support for passage of the bill.