

Senator Peter A. Micciche  
*Alaska State Legislature*

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*President of the Senate*

## **Sponsor Statement**

### **Version\B**

*"An Act extending the termination date of the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board; and providing for an effective date."*

The Division of Legislative Audit reviewed the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board for the purpose of determining whether there is a demonstrated public need for the ABC Boards continued existence and whether it has been operating in an effective manner. As a result, our auditors concluded that the board's termination date should be extended until June 30, 2026; however, after deliberation among committee members, the House Labor and Commerce Committee put forward an amendment to increase the extension until June 30, 2027.

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 and Title 44, Legislative Audit reviewed the activities of the ABC Board and determined the board is effectively serving the public interest by controlling the manufacture, barter, possession, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the state. Findings also included that board meetings were conducted effectively, regulations were adopted to implement statutory changes, and investigations were conducted in a timely manner.

The audit concluded the board should improve procedures for licensing efficiencies and issuing renewals such as, improving the completeness and accuracy of initial applications, reducing delays associated with compliance information, issuing licenses in a timely manner, automating the application process and filling AMCO staff vacancies. Additionally, operational improvements are needed in enforcement, monitoring board-related local law enforcement activity, and processing refunds to municipalities. Given the important role in safeguarding the health and safety of Alaskans and the economic importance of the industry, the continuation of this board is critical to the regulation of the alcohol industry in Alaska.

I urge your support of this bill to extend the sunset date of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Please contact Madison Govin in Senator Micciche's office at (907) 465-8181 for additional information.