

COVID-19 Update - DC Council Votes on Additional Emergency Bill



Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Today, the DC Council voted on an additional COVID-19 Emergency Relief Bill. Below are provisions that may impact your business operations.

Business Interruption Insurance

The initial version of the bill included a provision requiring insurance companies to cover claims of business interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HAWDC was made aware of the proposed amendment late last week, that initially would have limited claims to those employers who had less than 100 employees. Aware that this would have excluded most of our members, HAWDC contacted Councilmembers to urge them to amend the language to increase the number of employees, to make the provision applicable to hotels.

We were initially successful with our efforts; however, at the last minute, the proposal was amended to further restrict the number of employees. HAWDC immediately called Councilmembers to revise the language to again make it applicable to hotels. We are pleased to announce that due in part to our efforts, the proposal was withdrawn from the bill. The Council will continue to work on the proposal in the coming weeks, and HAWDC will continue to urge them to broaden the applicability so that our members will be able to benefit from the provision.

HAWDC will continue to work with the District Council to ensure that ongoing relief measures take into account the economic

impacts and contributions of hotels to the District and its economy.

Alcohol Beverage Regulation

On-premise licensees can register with the ABRA Board to sell beer, wine, or spirits in closed containers accompanied by one or more prepared food items for off-premises consumption from **one** additional location other than the licensed premises.

On-premises licensees who have registered to offer beer, wine, or spirits for carryout or delivery at the additional location, may do so for no longer than 30 calendar days. The Board may approve a written request from an on-premises licensee to extend carryout or delivery alcohol sales from an additional location for one additional 30 calendar-day period.

Corporate Filing Extension

There shall be no late fee for delivering the biennial report for 2020 required; provided, that the biennial report for 2020 be submitted by June 1, 2020.

Third Party Food Delivery Commissions

Third-party food delivery companies are barred from charging a restaurant a commission fee for the use of the platform's services for delivery or pick-up that totals more than 15% of the purchase price per online order. Any violations are subject to a fine of not less than \$250 and not more than \$1,000 for each such violation.

Regards,
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