

A RESOLUTION

25-450

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2024

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to continue the extension of the Streatery Program through 2024 and to clarify endorsement deadlines for certain classes of licensees.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Streatery Program and Endorsement Deadline Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2022, effective June 30, 2022 (D.C. Law 24-127; 69 DCR 507), allowed Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (“Board”) licensed establishments that registered with the Board to offer beer, wine, or spirits for sale on expanded outdoor space (“Streatery Program”) until December 31, 2023.

(b) The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) extended the Streatery Program deadline through December 31, 2024, to allow DDOT more time to develop regulations and guidelines needed to facilitate a permanent Streatery Program, and, in December 2023, the Council enacted legislation, which likewise extended the Streatery Program but did not clarify the deadlines by which specific licensees must pay their annual fees. The December 2023 emergency will expire on March 20, 2024.

(c) It is necessary to amend current law to clarify that while most alcohol licensees are required to make their annual payment this year by April 1, 2024, the annual payment for taverns, nightclubs, and breweries is due on September 30, 2024.

(d) To avoid confusion as a result of having multiple deadlines and to ensure administrative efficiency and a customer-friendly process, it is necessary that new legislation that continues the Streatery Program extension but that also clarifies that breweries, taverns, and nightclubs can pay their Streatery Program fee for 2024 at the same time that their annual liquor license fee is due be enacted.

(e) It is of vital importance that the clarifying provisions of the Streatery Program and Endorsement Deadline Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be enacted as soon as possible.

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Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Streatery Program and Endorsement Deadline Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.