

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Greg Dugal and I am testifying in favor of LD 378, which would temporarily waive renewal fees for on-premise retail liquor licenses. Once again thanks go out to the committee, Senator Luchini and BABLO for recognizing the situation our industry finds itself in and providing solutions to problems that were created through no fault of the licensee. BABLO was very understanding during the pandemic and pushed renewal dates out when licensees were unable to operate, specifically during the months where all that could be provided was take out food and beverage. Many chose not to provide take out as their primary item because they did not have the proper resources or location to conduct this business model. Many remained closed for long periods of time not using the privileges bestowed upon them by their liquor license.

Things will not be normal again for some time, so the ability to save \$1000 to \$1500 in licensing fees in 2021 will be a lifesaver. Once again, our industry is not one to ask for favors, we work hard to be independent and pay our fair share through all the licenses, fees and taxes that are imposed upon us and our guests. We have provided large sums of money to the general fund on an annual basis and will at some point return to these past levels to continue to assist the State of Maine in providing the services that citizens expect. This time around it is our industry that has need and we could not be more grateful for the temporary fixes provided to us. Rest assured these much-needed courtesies will be returned in good measure when we get back to whatever "normal" may be in the future. Just a reminder that the restaurant industry was off by 27% in 2020 and the lodging industry, most with liquor licenses off by 37%

Hopefully, times will get better soon, and the need for these types of bills will go away. No one in our industry looks for favors, just a playing field that allows for success. Pandemics have a way of changing that. So, it is with this thought that we encourage the committee to vote LD378 out of committee ought to pass for this temporary fix. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gregory Dugal
HospitalityMaine

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