

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 306, which would waive certain requirements for relicensing for restaurants that serve liquor. Once again thanks go out to the committee, Senator Luchini and BABLO for recognizing the situation our industry finds itself in and helping to provide solutions to problems that were created through no fault of the licensee.

We understand that food requirements are essential to the safe operations of liquor licensed establishments and support them, but there are times like the ones we have just experienced, where they cannot always be adhered to. We realize that the genesis of this bill was a brewing operation with a Chapter 43 restaurant, and we represent many and support this request on their behalf, but there are many other small hospitality businesses that experienced disruptions in this crisis.

In March, many were moved from inside service to strictly take out to outdoor dining and then back indoors with reduced capacity, all in a matter of a few months. Some probably couldn't even tell you if they have met their minimums based on the constant modification of their business model to adhere to executive orders and to help their business survive through this almost one year of a pandemic. For all these businesses we are grateful for this bill and the many others that have been introduced on behalf of the hospitality industry in this and other committees.

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 LD306 out of your committee ought to pass for this temporary fix. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gregory Dugal
HospitalityMaine

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