



February 22, 2021

Testimony of Brian Moran

Government Affairs Director, New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

130th Maine Legislature
Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 378 – An Act To Temporarily Waive Renewal Fees For On-Premises Retail Liquor Licenses.

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and Members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

The New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association (NECSEMA) represents convenience store and gasoline retailers, independent transportation fuel distributors, and the businesses which supply them. NECSEMA members own, operate and/or supply the majority of the 1,000+ convenience stores in Maine which employ over 16,000 people.

NECSEMA understands and appreciates the well-intentioned motivations in this legislation to address the economic impacts on the restaurant and hospitality industry. As proposed LD 378 would waive provide a one-time waiver for state liquor license renewal fees for on-premises permittees. Presently under Executive Orders issued by Governor Mills, restaurants are also being allowed to sell alcohol with a to-go order for off-premises consumption. Presently the on and off premises license categories are being blurred, in favor of on-premises permit holders.

NECSEMA suggests the Committee also acknowledge the economic struggles that continue to be felt by all permittees and make off-premises permittees eligible under this license fee relief plan. Otherwise, this approach favors one permit category over another.

NECSEMA encourages members of the Committee expand eligibility to off-premises permittees and maintain an open, equitable, and competitive marketplace.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian P. Moran".

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