



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
TOWN HALL
Needham, MA 02492-2669

Office of the
TOWN MANAGER

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January 7, 2022

The Honorable Tackey Chan, House Chair
The Honorable Susan Moran, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: An Act authorizing the town of Needham to grant licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises and wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises as provided in Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws

Dear Chair Chan, Chair Moran, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Please consider the following information in support of An Act Authorizing The Town Of Needham To Grant Licenses For The Sale Of All Alcoholic Beverages Not To Be Drunk On The Premises And Wine And Malt Beverages Not To Be Drunk On The Premises As Provided In Section 17 Of Chapter 138 Of The General Laws.

The October 25, 2021 Special Town Meeting under Article 10 approved a Home Rule Petition seeking to increase the total number of allowed package alcohol licenses in Needham, from the reduced quota set under the Town's current special legislation (Chapter 207 of the Acts of 2012) to the number allowed by G.L. Ch. 138 section 17. This change would require approval by the Town's voters.

The current quota allows the Select Board to issue up to eight (8) package licenses, not more than six (6) for all alcoholic beverages, and the remainder for wine and/or malt only. That quota is currently issued and outstanding (as six all alcohol and two wine and malt).

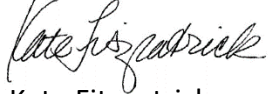
If this legislation is approved, the Town's quota would change to the population-based (one per five thousand or fraction) numbers of package licenses authorized under G.L. Ch. 138 sec. 17. Based on Needham's estimated 2020 census population of 32,091, that would result in seven (7) all alcohol and seven (7) wine and malt.

The Section 17 quota is the baseline applicable to most Massachusetts cities and towns (some of which have additional authorized licenses under special legislation). The Select Board expects that, at least over time, there will be qualified applicants for some, or all of

the additional licenses allowed by this change. This change affects “package” licenses only, not restaurant or other “on-premises consumption” licenses.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Fitzpatrick".

Kate Fitzpatrick
Town Manager

cc: Representative Denise Garlick
Select Board