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THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ("ABCC") ADVISORY

The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission is pleased to announce that effective May 28, 2013 we are **taking additional steps to streamline the retail license approval** process to benefit the retail beverage alcohol business community. As you are aware, the license process includes a requirement that applicants receive a release from the Departments of Revenue ("DOR") and Unemployment Assistance ("DUA"). Although the applications are forwarded to both tax agencies upon arrival at the ABCC, at times the process can be lengthy while DOR and DUA conduct their due diligence, which can result in delays for prospective businesses.

Consequently, we communicated with DOR and found a solution to modernize the process.[1] We are happy to announce that we have found a collaborative solution which will allow us to obtain the required tax releases more quickly and efficiently, so that license applications can be considered for approval without delays. The license applicants will now be driving the process.

Effective May 28, 2013, applicants for an alcoholic beverages license will simply submit a DOR Certificate of Good Standing (COGS) with their application to the local licensing authorities. The COGS should then be included in the application forms forwarded to the ABCC by the local licensing authorities

Any applicant can obtain a COGS using the DOR website www.mass.gov/dor by following the links to the DOR's online Certificate of Good Standing. The COGS will serve as the DOR release.

With this new streamlined process, the ABCC will continue to protect the Commonwealth's interests, while providing greater efficiencies to both government and the industry. Please do not hesitate to contact Ralph Sacramone, 617-727-3040 ext. 731or Patricia Krueger, 617-727-3040 ext. 718, with any questions you may have. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

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[1] State law requires that the ABCC not consider an application unless and until the applicant shows it has complied with all of the Commonwealth's tax laws. As such, the Department of Revenue ("DOR") issues a tax release directly to the ABCC.

This twenty-five year old procedure caused many delays that could last four to six weeks until the DOR sent the tax release. These delays generally lasted for four - six weeks. The delays were caused by a variety of things and, including the seller's and applicant's inattention, incorrect information, failure to make the required tax filings and/or tax payments. The delay caused by this process in some instances lasted for six (6) months or longer.

(Issued: Thursday, May 23, 2013)