



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM ~~XXX~~843-2024

Meeting Date: _____October 22, 2024

1 **From: Assembly Members Bronga and Brawley**

2
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**
4 **AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 10.50.036**
5 **TO REQUIRE MANDATORY ID CHECKS FOR THE SERVICE AND**
6 **SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE PREMISES OF ALL**
7 **RETAIL LICENSEES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY.**
8

9 Alcohol misuse is a known challenge in every Alaska community, including
10 Anchorage. Alaska consistently falls among the top states for alcohol-attributable
11 deaths. Based on annual averages from 2015-2019, Alaska experienced the second
12 highest rate of alcohol- attributable mortality¹, and an average of 562 people died in
13 Alaska due to alcohol use². In addition, Alaska faces numerous other alcohol-related
14 challenges, including high rates of alcohol consumption and binge drinking among
15 the adult population and a large proportion of alcohol-related child abuse and
16 neglect.
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18 Another significant cost of alcohol misuse is driving under the influence (DUIs), and
19 mortality and injuries as a result of alcohol-involved crashes. Comparing the
20 *Economic Cost of Alcohol Misuse in Alaska* report from 2019³ with crash data from
21 Alaska’s DOT&PF’s Highway Safety Office,⁴ over a ten-year span, approximately
22 29% of fatal crashes within the State happened in Anchorage. The total estimated
23 cost of alcohol-involved collisions in Alaska was over \$1.2 billion dollars (in 2018
24 dollars).
25

26 The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services supports an array of
27 evidence-based promotion, prevention, and early intervention strategies addressing
28 substance abuse and mental health, ascribing to six Center for Substance Abuse
29 Prevention strategies: 1) Information Dissemination; 2) Education; 3) Alternative
30 Meaningful Activities; 4) Individual Support and Referral; 5) Community-Based
31 Processes; and 6) Environmental Approaches. Community-Based Processes
32 include increasing visible enforcement of underage drinking laws and applying
33 alcohol-attributable strategies implemented, include restricting retail and social
34 access to alcohol for youth, which prevents illegal sales of alcohol.
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¹ *Alcohol Abuse Statistics*, NAT’L CTR. FOR DRUG ABUSE STAT., <https://drugabusestatistics.org/alcohol-abuse-statistics/>

² *Alcohol and Public Health: Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI)*, CDC, https://nccd.cdc.gov/DPH_ARDI/default/Report.aspx?T=AAM&P=FCCBA2BC-6E0B-4C29-925E-BC9190793C0D&R=76E5CA04-EAB7-466C-9264-F706A4F70699&M=19601D50-9B0D-46AD-9F82-E3B67356E120&F=&D=

³ *The Economic Costs of Alcohol Misuse in Alaska*, RECOVER ALASKA, <https://recoveralaska.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/mcdowell-group-alcohol-misuse-report-final-1.21.20.pdf>

⁴ *Fatal Crash Data*, AK DEP’T OF TRANSP., HWY SAFETY OFF., <https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/hwysafety/data.shtml>

1 Our community has made progress: while alcohol remains the substance of greatest
2 misuse, the number of Anchorage high school youth who had reported consuming
3 five or more drinks in one sitting in the last month had decreased from just over 20%
4 in 2011 to just under 15% in 2017, and 13.6% in 2023.⁵ However, more work is
5 needed to reduce the high costs of alcohol-related harms in the Municipality, by
6 supporting policies to combat underage drinking as well as alcohol misuse by adults.

7
8 Alaska law requires that a person be 21 years or older to purchase and consume
9 alcohol. In some circumstances, a person over 21 may also be restricted from
10 purchasing or consuming alcohol: the “red stripe” law requires an individual who is
11 prohibited by court order from purchasing alcohol due to past violent or reckless
12 behavior related to alcohol misuse, obtain a driver’s license with a red stripe
13 denoting a recent conviction such as driving under the influence. Individuals who
14 are restricted from obtaining alcohol may not enter licensed premises (AS 04.16.047
15 and AMC section 8.35.416.047) or legally purchase (AS 04.16.160 and AMC
16 8.35.416.160). The “red stripe” law was passed by the Alaska Legislature in 2007,
17 and the corresponding Municipal Code sections passed by the Anchorage
18 Assembly in 2014 .

19
20 Currently, state law does not require licensees and employees to check IDs before
21 service or sale, only that the sale itself would be illegal, with separate penalties for
22 an individual misrepresenting their age or not disclosing that they have a court-
23 ordered restriction. Regular, consistent compliance checks—an enforcement
24 activity of whether employees are following required laws when completing a sale—
25 is an effective strategy to incentivize businesses to ensure employees are trained,
26 following applicable laws and rules, and not selling to minors. In years past, but not
27 within the last decade, the Alaska Alcohol Marijuana Control Office (AMCO)
28 conducted regular compliance checks of licensees regarding underage alcohol
29 sales. Limited enforcement resources, both with local police and AMCO
30 Enforcement Office staff, mean compliance checks become a low priority.

31
32 Following robust discussion by the Anchorage Assembly about whether to
33 implement a mandatory ID check ordinance, Anchorage voters approved
34 Proposition 11 in the regular election of April 2011, an advisory vote that would
35 require ID verification for all alcohol sales at package stores within the Municipality
36 (not other license types). Later that year the Assembly worked with the community
37 and local businesses to implement the will of the public and require identification
38 checks of all patrons purchasing alcohol at package stores. Through a series of
39 meetings, compromises, and substitute versions, the ordinance that ultimately
40 passed, AO 2011-55(S-1), required 100% ID checks, but only applied to package
41 stores. The originally proposed ordinance and its (S) version included Assembly
42 members’ proposed inclusion of bars and restaurants for the mandatory ID checks,
43 but these provisions was removed from the (S-1) that passed.

⁵ *Substance Misue Community Assessment (2019)*, MUN. OF ANCHORAGE, HEALTH DEP’T, Pg. 88,
https://www.muni.org/Departments/health/SiteAssets/Pages/SubstanceMisuse/AHD%20Substance%20Misuse%20Community%20Assessment_Online.pdf

Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Anchorage School District, 2019 report, AK DEP’T OF HEALTH,
<https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/TraditionalResults/Anchorage.aspx>

1 This proposed ordinance continues the work originally begun in 2011, and amends
2 AMC section 10.50.036 to require ID checks at all premises licensed for the retail
3 sales of alcohol in the Municipality. The last decade has demonstrated that the
4 mandatory ID check has not placed a substantial burden on local businesses. There
5 is also, since 2016, an equivalent requirement for a marijuana retail establishment's
6 employee to check ID and determine that the person is legally allowed to be on
7 premises. This ordinance is a simple, common-sense measure to limit access to
8 alcohol by our youth, and persons who have been court-ordered not to purchase or
9 consume alcohol, and applying the requirement to check ID consistently across all
10 types of retail alcohol establishments.

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12 There are no anticipated economic effects by amending these provisions of code,
13 so a summary of economic effects is not provided.

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15 **We request your support for the ordinance.**

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17 Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office

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19 Respectfully submitted: Karen Bronga, Assembly Member
20 District 5 – East Anchorage

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22 Anna Brawley, Assembly Member
23 District 3 – West Anchorage

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25 Zac Johnson, Assembly Member
26 District 6 – South Anchorage,
27 Girdwood & Turnagain Arm