



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu
Licensing Board

Commissioners:
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Liam P. Curran
Executive Secretary:
Daniel R. Green

**THE LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ADVISORY
REGARDING BOTTLE SERVICE AT LICENSED PREMISES**

Issued: May 18, 2023

The Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board"), in partnership with the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (the "ABCC"), is responsible for regulating the sale and service of alcoholic beverages within the City of Boston. It has come to the attention of the Board that an increasing number of licensees are advertising and offering the sale of full bottles of distilled spirits ("bottle service") without Board permission. The Board therefore issues this advisory (the "Advisory") to remind holders of licenses to sell alcoholic beverages on-premise of the rules regarding bottle service.

1. Any licensee wishing to provide bottle service on their licensed premise **must** obtain written permission from the Board prior to offering the service. This will require a hearing before the Board.
2. Licensees offering bottle service without Board approval may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board, up to and including the suspension or revocation of any license issued by the Board.
3. Approval will only be granted in situations where the licensee submits a plan illustrating that the proposed bottle service conforms to the Rules and Regulations of the Board and the ABCC. This plan should address, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. How the licensed premise will be adequately staffed to provide bottle service
 - b. How the licensee will ensure that bottles are monitored at all times
 - c. The total number of tables that will be offered bottle service at any given time
4. If approved, Licensees must ensure that bottles are never left unattended or under the direct control of patrons.
5. Licensees approved for bottle service must ensure they do not serve alcohol to intoxicated patrons, regardless of whether they have paid for bottle service.

Licensees are reminded that it is a violation of state and local regulations to deliver more than two (2) alcoholic drinks to any patron at one time. Licensees approved for bottle service must continue to observe all other laws regarding the sale and service of alcohol, and all rules and regulations of the Board and the ABCC. **Claims of ignorance of the law, the regulations regarding bottle service, or this Advisory are not a defense.**

Any questions should be directed to the Board's Executive Secretary, Daniel R. Green, Esq., who can be reached at (617) 635-4170 or licensingboard@boston.gov.

For the Board,

Daniel R. Green

Daniel R. Green, Esq.
Executive Secretary