THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

DATE: November 21, 2025

FROM: Anna White, Licensing Examiner II

RE: 16710 Alaska State Fair,
Alaska State Fair, Inc.,
New Fair License

Background: This is the 2nd Fair License application to be considered by the Board. Alaska State Fair, Inc. is transitioning out of their current Rec-Site license #39 for the new Fair license type. They have venues specific to the annual Alaska State Fair and potential additional venues that may be utilized for year-round events that are scheduled on the Alaska State Fairgrounds. All service locations that may be scheduled for alcohol service for year-round events, outside of the annual fair dates, will be subject to Alternating Premises.

Additional Consideration: Mat-Su Baseball, Inc. holds Rec-Site license #2931 dba Mat-Su Miners located at the Hermon Brothers field at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. Mat-Su Baseball, Inc. holds a lease for Hermon Brothers Field with Alaska State Fair, Inc, and has operated with their alcohol license in that space since 1989. With the statutory re-write of Title IV, Rec-Site licenses will need to convert to a Sporting Activity or Event license AS 04.09.270 by 12/31/2027 or 12/31/2028 depending on licensing year. For Mat-Su Miners, they have till 2028. Due to statutory changes, and the need to change license types, both parties would like to guarantee that they will be allowed to continue to operate as they have for over 36 years. Hermon Brothers Field can be accessed by E Rebarchek Avenue that passes through the Alaska State Fairgrounds.

Attachments: Memo, New Fair License Application Summary, Overview of Alaska State Fairgrounds, Security Plan, Fair-time Premises Diagrams, Alternating Premises Application (pending LGB approval), Year-Round/Interim Premises Diagrams

Applicable statute: AS 04.09.290. Fair license.
(a) A fair license authorizes the holder to sell beer and wine at multiple noncontiguous locations at an annual fair held on fairgrounds for consumption on the licensed premises.
(b) The biennial fair license fee is $1,250.
(c) The board may issue a fair license only to a nonprofit organization that is incorporated under AS 10.20 and has been active for a period of at least five years before January 1, 2024.
(d) The holder of a fair license may not sell brewed beverages or wine at more than 30 events, other than an annual fair, held on the fairgrounds in a calendar year.
(e) In this section, "annual fair" means an annual gathering of residents of all or a portion of the state that offers competitive exhibitions of livestock and agricultural crops, carnival amusement rides and games, and displays of arts and crafts.

Applicable regulations:
3 AAC 305.650. Alternating licensed premises. Upon a licensee's written request accompanied by a detailed premises diagram, the board may approve a portion of a premises of a retail license licensed for onsite consumption to alternate as a licensed or unlicensed premises under the following conditions:
(1) the request is made on a form prescribed by the board, accompanied by a detailed premises diagram and $250 fee;
(2) approval will be granted only if the board finds that use of the identified area as alternating premises will stimulate tourism or promote activities open to the general public;

(3) a debt that is incurred during times when the identified area is unlicensed will be considered a debt incurred in the operation of the licensed business for purposes of transfer of the license under AS 04.11.360;

(4) at any time with written notice to the licensee, the board may withdraw its approval of use of the identified area as alternating premises.

(5) a permit issued under AS 04.09.610, 04.09.620, 04.09.630, 04.09.650, 04.09.660, 04.09.670, and 04.09.700 may be exercised in the alternating area during the times the identified area is unlicensed premises;

(6) during times the identified area is designated as an unlicensed premises, all alcoholic beverages must either be removed from the identified area or be stored in a location approved by the board to be secure from the public;

(7) a licensee may apply hours that it is operating as an alternating unlicensed premises to meet the operating requirement described under AS 04.11.330(a)(3).