

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marijuana Control Board DATE: October 23, 2020

FROM: Jane P. Sawyer, Regulations Specialist RE: Regulations Project –

Reinstatement of license

The staff is bringing forth, as a suggestion to the board, regulation language that addresses reinstatement of a license due to failure by the licensee to submit a renewal application on time.

The attached draft would

- amend application for renewal of license, 3 AAC 306.035, including adding new subsections, to allow for a licensee to submit a renewal application along with a statement of reasons for failure to submit a renewal application on time no later than September 30 of the year on which the license expired. It would require a reinstatement fee. Limitations apply.
- repeal and readopt denial of license application section, 3 AAC 306.080, to re-letter it
 for logical progression but the "new" language is (c) which lays out provisions for which
 the board will deny an application for reinstatement including, but no limited to, the
 application was submitted later than September 30 of the applicable year, the applicant
 was granted a reinstatement within ten years prior, or the failure to submit a timely
 renewal application is due to excusable oversight.
- add the word/phrase "reinstatement" or "license reinstatement" to applicable sections such as informal conference 3 AAC 306.085, formal hearing 3 AAC 306.090, appeals 3 AAC 306.095, for applicant/licensee due process.
- Amend fees; refund section, 3 AAC 306.100, to add a non-refundable reinstatement fee. The board would need to discuss and come up with the fee.

Options for the board if it wishes to move forward with suggestion:

- Open project and put out for public comment
- · Open project, amend draft and put out for public comment
- Open project and send back to staff for revisions
- No action if the board does not move forward with suggestion

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3 AAC 306.035 introductory language is amended to read:

3 AAC 306.035. Application for renewal of license; <u>reinstatement for failure to timely</u> renew.

3 AAC 306.035(d) is amended to read:

(d) The director may require an applicant for renewal <u>or reinstatement</u> of a license under this chapter to submit fingerprints and pay fees as required by 3 AAC 306.055(a).

3 AAC 306.035(g) is amended to read:

(g) If a marijuana establishment required to submit a renewal application under (a) of this section fails to deliver a complete license renewal application or fails to pay the required renewal fee and the late renewal application fee on or before August 31 of each year, that marijuana establishment license expires at 12:00 midnight on August 31 of that year. A holder of an expired license shall immediately surrender the license to the board. Any holder of an expired license that seeks authority to operate must file a complete new application under 3 AAC 306.020, and 3 AAC 306.025, along with the required fees. A holder of an expired license may apply for reinstatement as described in 3 AAC 306.035(i).

3 AAC 306.035 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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(i) A ho	older of an exp	pired license under 3 AAC 306.035(g) may apply to the board for
reinstatement of	a license no l	ater than September 30 of the year on which the license expired.
When applying	for reinstatem	ent, the applicant shall:
(1) submit a st	eatement of reason, on a form prescribed by the board, for not
submitting a ren	ewal applicati	ion on time;
(2	2) satisfy all t	the current requirements for the issuance of a license renewal;
(1	3) attest that t	the applicant has not been granted reinstatement under this section
under the prior t	en years;	
(4	4) satisfy any	additional requirements for reinstatement of the license as required
by the board.		
(:	5) pay the nor	n-refundable license reinstatement fee set out under 3 AAC
306.100(b).		
3 AAC 306.035	is amended by	y adding a new subsection to read:
(j) 3 AA	C 306.035(i)	shall not be interpreted to give any person a right to reinstatement
of the license. L	icense reinstat	tement will be granted solely as described under this chapter.
3 AAC 306.035	is amended by	y adding a new subsection to read:
(k) Noth	ning about gra	nting license reinstatement prevents the board from taking
additional discip	olinary action a	against the licensee. (Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am 12/28/2017,
Register 224; an	n 2/21/2019, F	Register 229; am 3/25/20, Register 233; am/,
Register)	

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Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.121
	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.190	AS 17.38.200
	AS 17.38.900		

3AAC 306.080. Denial of License application, is repealed and readopted to read:

- 3 AAC 306.080. **Denial of license application.** (a) After review of the application, including the applicant's proposed operating plan and all relevant information, the board will deny an application for a new license if the board finds that
- (1) the application is not complete as required under the applicable provisions of $\underline{3}$ AAC 306.020 $\underline{3}$ AAC 306.055, or contains any false statement of material fact;
 - (2) the license would violate any restriction in <u>3 AAC 306.010</u> or <u>3 AAC 306.015</u>;
- (3) the license would violate any restriction applicable to the particular license type authorized under this chapter;
- (4) the license is prohibited under this chapter as a result of an ordinance or election conducted under AS 17.38.210, 3 AAC 306.200, or 3 AAC 306.230;
- (5) the applicant's actions or the operating plan does not adequately demonstrate that the applicant will comply with applicable provisions of this chapter;
 - (6) the license would not be in the best interests of the public; or
- (7) a protest by the local governing body is not arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable.
- (b) After review of the application and all relevant information, the board will deny an application for renewal of a marijuana establishment license if the board finds

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(1) any cause listed in (a) of	this section;
(2) repealed 8/21/2019;	
(3) that the license has been	operated in violation of a condition or restriction the
board previously imposed;	
(4) that the applicant is deli	nquent in the payment of taxes due in whole or in part
from operation of the licensed business;	
(5) that a protest by the loca	ll governing body is not arbitrary, capricious, and
unreasonable; or	
(6) that the applicant has los	st right to possession of the applicant's licensed
premises.	
(c) After review of the application a	and all relevant information, the board will deny an
application for reinstatement of license due	e to failure to submit a timely renewal if the board
finds	
(1) any cause listed in (a) o	r (b) of this section;
(2) violation of any terms of	of administrative hold or seizure of marijuana or
marijuana product as described in 3 AAC 3	306.830;
(3) the application was sub	mitted later than September 30 of the given applicable
year;	

prior to the application submittal; or

(4) the applicant has had an application for reinstatement granted within ten years

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- (5) the failure to submit a timely renewal application is due to excusable oversight, such as confusion as to whether an original license holder or the applicant for a transfer license is required to submit the renewal application;
- (d) After review of the application and all relevant information, the board will deny an application for transfer of license to another person if the board finds
 - (1) any cause listed in (a) of this section;
- (2) that the transferor has not paid all debts or taxes arising from the operation of the business licensed under this chapter unless the transferor gives security for the payment of the debts or taxes satisfactory to the creditor or taxing authority;
- (3) that transfer of the license to another person would result in violation of the provisions of this chapter relating to identity of licensees and financing of licensees;
- (4) that the prospective transferee does not have the qualifications of an original applicant required under this chapter; or
- (5) that a protest by the local governing body is not arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable.
- (e) If the board denies an application for a new license, renewal of a license, reinstatement of license, license conversion, or transfer of a license to another person, the board will, not later than 15 days after the board meeting at which the application was denied, furnish a written statement of issues to the applicant, explaining the reason for the denial in clear and concise language, and identifying any statute or regulation on which the denial is based. In the

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notice of denial the board will inform the applicant of the right to an informal conference under 3						
AAC 306.085	and to a formal	hearing under 3 AAC 306.09	90.			
(f) Aft	er review of the	application and all relevant i	nformation, the board will deny an			
application for	r license convers	sion if the board finds that				
	(1) the applicat	ion contains any false statem	ent of material fact;			
	(2) the license	would violate any restriction	applicable to the particular license			
type authorize	ed under this cha	pter;				
	(3) the license	s prohibited under this chapt	er as a result of an ordinance or			
election condu	ucted under AS	17.38.210, 3AAC 306.200, or	r <u>3 AAC 306.230</u> ;			
	(4) the applican	nt's actions or the application	does not adequately demonstrate that			
the applicant v	will comply with	applicable provisions of this	s chapter;			
(5) a protest by the local governing body is not arbitrary, capricious, and						
unreasonable;	or					
	(6) the license	conversion would not be in the	ne best interest of the public.			
(Eff. 2/21/20)	16, Register 217	; am 2/21/19, Register 229; a	m 8/21/2019, Register 231; am Eff.			
//	, Register)				
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.121			
	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.190	AS 17.38.200			
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3 AAC 306.085(a) is amended to read:

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(a) If an applicant for a new license, renewal of a license, <u>license reinstatement</u>, license conversion, or transfer of a license to another person is aggrieved by an action of the board denying the application, the applicant may, not later than 15 days after the date of the written notice of denial, request an informal conference with the director or the board. An informal conference requested under this section must be held at a time and place convenient to the applicant and the board, but not later than the next scheduled meeting of the board. An informal conference may be conducted telephonically.

(Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am 2/21/2019, Register 229; am ____/____; Register ______)

Authority: AS 17.38.010 AS 17.38.070 AS 17.38.121

AS 17.38.150 AS 17.38.190 AS 17.38.200

AS 17.38.900

3 AAC 306.090(a) is amended to read:

(a) If an applicant for a new license, renewal of a license, <u>license reinstatement</u>, license conversion, or transfer of a license is aggrieved by an action of the board denying the application, the applicant may request a formal hearing by filing a notice of defense in compliance with AS 44.62.390 not later than 15 days after the date of the written notice of the denial, or as provided in 3 AAC 306.085(b) if the applicant requested and participated in an informal conference. Failure to file a notice of defense as provided in this section constitutes a waiver of the right to a formal hearing. (Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am 2/21/2019, Register 229; am Eff. __/____, Register _____)

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Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.121		
	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.190	AS 17.38.200		
	AS 17.38.900				
3 AAC 306.09	95 is amended to	read:			
(a) Aı	n aggrieved appli	icant or marijuana establishm	ent license holder may appeal to the		
board regarding	ng any action of	the director, or an employee	or agent of the board regarding an		
application fo	r a new license,	a license renewal, <u>license rei</u>	nstatement, a license conversion, or a		
transfer of lice	ense to another p	erson.			
(b) An	applicant or ma	rijuana establishment license	holder aggrieved by a final decision		
of the board re	egarding an appl	ication for a new license, a li	cense renewal, <u>license reinstatement</u> ,		
a license conv	ersion, or a trans	sfer of license to another pers	on may appeal to the superior court		
under AS 44.6	62.560. (Eff. 2/2)	1/2016, Register 217; am 2/2	1/2019, Register 229; am Eff.		
//	, Register)			
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.900		
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.190			
	AS 17.38.121	AS 17.38.200			

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Current language for 3 AAC 306.085 which is being repealed and readopted:

AS 17.38.900

- [(a) AFTER REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION, INCLUDING THE APPLICANT'S PROPOSED OPERATING PLAN AND ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, THE BOARD WILL DENY AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENSE IF THE BOARD FINDS THAT
- (1) THE APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE AS REQUIRED UNDER THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF 3 AAC 306.020 3 AAC 306.055, OR CONTAINS ANY FALSE STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACT;
- (2) THE LICENSE WOULD VIOLATE ANY RESTRICTION IN 3 AAC 306.010 OR 3 AAC 306.015;
- (3) THE LICENSE WOULD VIOLATE ANY RESTRICTION APPLICABLE TO THE PARTICULAR LICENSE TYPE AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS CHAPTER;
- (4) THE LICENSE IS PROHIBITED UNDER THIS CHAPTER AS A RESULT OF AN ORDINANCE OR ELECTION CONDUCTED UNDER AS 17.38.210, 3 AAC 306.200, OR 3 AAC 306.230;
- (5) THE APPLICANT'S ACTIONS OR THE OPERATING PLAN DOES NOT ADEQUATELY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER;

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- (6) THE LICENSE WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC;
- (7) A PROTEST BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY IS NOT ARBITRARY, CAPRICIOUS, AND UNREASONABLE.
- (b) AFTER REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION AND ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, THE BOARD WILL DENY AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE IF THE BOARD FINDS
 - (1) ANY CAUSE LISTED IN (A) OF THIS SECTION;
 - (2) REPEALED 8/21/2019;
- (3) THAT THE LICENSE HAS BEEN OPERATED IN VIOLATION OF A CONDITION OR RESTRICTION THE BOARD PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED;
- (4) THAT THE APPLICANT IS DELINQUENT IN THE PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE IN WHOLE OR IN PART FROM OPERATION OF THE LICENSED BUSINESS;
- (5) THAT A PROTEST BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY IS NOT ARBITRARY, CAPRICIOUS, AND UNREASONABLE; OR
- (6) THAT THE APPLICANT HAS LOST RIGHT TO POSSESSION OF THE APPLICANT'S LICENSED PREMISES.
- (c) AFTER REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION AND ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, THE BOARD WILL DENY AN APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF LICENSE TO ANOTHER PERSON IF THE BOARD FINDS
 - (1) ANY CAUSE LISTED IN (A) OF THIS SECTION;
- (2) THAT THE TRANSFEROR HAS NOT PAID ALL DEBTS OR TAXES ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSED UNDER THIS CHAPTER UNLESS THE TRANSFEROR GIVES SECURITY FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBTS OR TAXES SATISFACTORY TO THE CREDITOR OR TAXING AUTHORITY:
- (3) THAT TRANSFER OF THE LICENSE TO ANOTHER PERSON WOULD RESULT IN VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER RELATING TO IDENTITY OF LICENSEES AND FINANCING OF LICENSEES:
- (4) THAT THE PROSPECTIVE TRANSFEREE DOES NOT HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ORIGINAL APPLICANT REQUIRED UNDER THIS CHAPTER; OR
- (5) THAT A PROTEST BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY IS NOT ARBITRARY, CAPRICIOUS, AND UNREASONABLE.
- (d) IF THE BOARD DENIES AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENSE, RENEWAL OF A LICENSE, LICENSE CONVERSION, OR TRANSFER OF A LICENSE TO ANOTHER PERSON, THE BOARD WILL, NOT LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE BOARD MEETING AT WHICH THE APPLICATION WAS DENIED, FURNISH A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO THE APPLICANT, EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE DENIAL IN CLEAR AND CONCISE LANGUAGE, AND IDENTIFYING ANY STATUTE OR REGULATION ON WHICH THE DENIAL IS BASED. IN THE NOTICE OF DENIAL THE BOARD WILL INFORM THE APPLICANT OF THE RIGHT TO AN INFORMAL

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CONFERENCE UNDER 3 AAC 306.085 AND TO A FORMAL HEARING UNDER 3 AAC 306.090.

- (e) AFTER REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION AND ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, THE BOARD WILL DENY AN APPLICATION FOR LICENSE CONVERSION IF THE BOARD FINDS THAT
- (1) THE APPLICATION CONTAINS ANY FALSE STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACT;
- (2) THE LICENSE WOULD VIOLATE ANY RESTRICTION APPLICABLE TO THE PARTICULAR LICENSE TYPE AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS CHAPTER;
- (3) THE LICENSE IS PROHIBITED UNDER THIS CHAPTER AS A RESULT OF AN ORDINANCE OR ELECTION CONDUCTED UNDER AS 17.38.210, 3AAC 306.200, OR 3 AAC 306.230:
- (4) THE APPLICANT'S ACTIONS OR THE APPLICATION DOES NOT ADEQUATELY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER;
- (5) A PROTEST BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY IS NOT ARBITRARY, CAPRICIOUS, AND UNREASONABLE; OR
- (6) THE LICENSE CONVERSION WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC.]