

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend Title 25 of the District of Columbia Official Code to make amendments to the law regulating the sale, transportation, and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

(a) On March 11, 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared both a state of emergency and public health emergency in the District in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus global pandemic and the District government implemented guidelines on social distancing in order to contain the spread of the virus.

(b) The guidelines, and mandates, inadvertently affected the hospitality industry resulting in many alcohol establishments operating at a limited capacity, and, in some cases, only on an off-premises basis. Alcohol establishments such as restaurants, bars, night clubs, and liquor stores bore the brunt of the economic recession, which led the Council and Executive to act quickly to provide some relief to these businesses.

(c) One legislative action the Council undertook was to enact the Streatery Program and Pop-Up Locations Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, enacted on July 27, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-346; 67 DCR 9387) (“emergency measure”). The emergency measure, and subsequent legislative extensions of it, authorized the streatery and pop-up programs to April 30, 2022. Permanent legislation, the Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2022, as approved by the Committee on Business and Economic Development on February 9, 2022 (Committee print of Bill 24-44) (“Bill 24-44”), would extend the authorization for streatery and pop-up programs to December 31, 2023.

(d) On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the Committee of the Whole voted unanimously in favor of Bill 24-44. However, Bill 24-44 must complete its legislative process and will not become law until after April 30, 2022.

(e) This emergency legislation is necessary to prevent a gap in authorization so that the streatery and pop-up programs can continue operation beyond April 30, 2020, while the permanent legislation, Bill 24-44, completes the legislative process and becomes law.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Medical Cannabis Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.