

How the Liquor laws work

From our Anchorage Bureau

Every year, Alaska's 1,300 liquor licenses must be renewed. Under legislation passed last spring, people living outside of

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organized municipalities who are affected by a liquor establishment were given the power to block the issuance of new liquor licenses and the renewal or transfer of existing licenses in their area.

Generally, the process of protesting a license application, renewal or transfer is as follows:

—The person applying for a new license, renewal or transfer must inform the people in the area by posting a notice, 30 days before filing the application, at the liquor establishment, the post office and one other location. In some cases the notice must be bilingual.

—Anyone in or near a village of 25 or more people wishing to protest the application must submit a written statement to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board, who may then hold a hearing.

—If a protest is made by at least 35% of the adults living in or near the affected village, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs will conduct an election. If the majority of adult residents vote against the liquor establishment, the application for license, renewal or transfer will be denied.

—The law also provides that if a liquor establishment is located outside an unorganized village and its immediate vicinity, the Alcohol Beverage Control Board may reject a new license, renewal or transfer application if the majority of the adults in the affected area object to the establishment at a hearing.

—The law also states that new liquor licenses may not be issued in incorporated cities that have no liquor stores or bars until the city has held an election to determine if the establishment is wanted.