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**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION (“ABCC”) ADVISORY
REGARDING CHANGES TO M.G.L. c. 138, § 26- RETAIL LICENSE MANAGERS**

On November 20, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed (in part) “An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts’ Economic Leadership” that made changes to M.G.L. c. 138, § 26 which now allows “qualified alien(s) under the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101” to become alcohol license managers pursuant to the Massachusetts Liquor Control Act. The text of the bill can be found [HERE](#).

Local Boards may now approve a license manager who is either a United States citizen or a “qualified alien under the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101.” If a proposed license manager is not a United States citizen, they must provide documentation from the United States federal government evidencing they are a “qualified alien under the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101.” Acceptable documentation includes but is not limited to a Permanent Resident Card “Green Card,” or Employment Authorization Document.

The law also authorizes sole proprietors and partnerships to apply for retail alcoholic beverages licenses issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 12 (on-premises) and M.G.L. c. 138, § 15 (off-premises) if all individuals applying are either United States citizens or “qualified alien(s) under the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101.” This applies to farmer series pouring permits issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 19 B(n), C(n) and E(o) as well.

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law.

Questions concerning this Advisory may be directed to Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission at (617) 727- 3040 x 731.

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