



Measure #: 2026-023

# TOWN COUNCIL MEASURE SUBMITTAL

Date: 9/22/2025

Submitted By: Councilor John Simmons

Telephone #: 508-699-0100

**MEASURE DESCRIPTION:**

Charter Amendment – Transfer of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Authority

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Purpose:

To amend the Town Charter by transferring the authority to issue and regulate all alcoholic beverage licenses from the Licensing Board to the Town Council, while preserving the Licensing Board’s authority over all other licenses as enumerated by General Laws, the Charter, and Town Bylaws.

Justification:

This measure clarifies and modernizes the licensing responsibilities of the Town of North Attleborough. Under current practice, the Licensing Board issues all licenses, including alcoholic beverages, except where otherwise required by law. The proposed amendment aligns North Attleborough with the common practice in other municipalities by placing the issuance and regulation of alcoholic beverage licenses directly under the elected Town Council, ensuring accountability to the public and consistency with state law.

The amendment provides:

- Clear delineation of licensing authority between the Town Council and Licensing Board.
- Greater public transparency and accountability in decisions related to alcoholic beverage licenses.
- Continuity of the Licensing Board’s role in administering all other license categories (e.g., common victualer’s, entertainment, taxi, pawn, arcade, marijuana establishments, etc.).
- Seamless transfer of existing alcoholic beverage licenses to the Town Council for administration, enforcement, renewal, or modification.

This change supports the Town’s vision of effective governance and ensures that licensing decisions of significant public interest, such as alcoholic beverage establishments, are made directly by elected officials.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

REFER TO SUB-COMMITTEE: Bylaw

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PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION CONTINUED: