

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-4968
Toll-free: 1 (800) 773-4968



Interim:
1500 West Benson Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 269-0117
Toll-free: 1 (800) 773-4968

Email: Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov

Senator Mia Costello District K – West Anchorage

February 19, 2019

The Honorable Chris Tuck
Chair, Legislative Budget and Audit
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Tuck and members of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

I ask for your consideration in approving an audit of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) board's licensing process. The audit request is made in response to complaints regarding long wait times in processing license applications. Businesses owners and the general economy suffer when delays in processing applications keep businesses from operating.

As background, the ABC board is a regulatory and quasi-judicial board consisting of five members appointed by the governor, created for the purpose of controlling the manufacture, barter, possession, and sale of alcoholic beverages. The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) provides assistance to the board in administering, licensing, and enforcing alcoholic beverage control statutes and regulations. AMCO staff provide similar support to the Marijuana Control Board. The board, with the assistance of AMCO staff, regulates over 1,800 ABC board licensees.

I request that an audit include the following objectives for the period FY 19 and FY 20:

- Identify and examine time it takes the board to make application decisions.
- Determine the cause of application decision delays.
- Make recommendations for improving the timeliness of application decisions.
- Follow up on areas of related concern identified by the Legislative Auditor.

Thank you for considering this request. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Tom Wright of my staff if you need further information or have questions regarding the proposed audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mia Costello".

Senator Mia Costello
Senate District K