



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

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NOTICE OF BOARD VOTE – APPLICATIONS TO REMOVE OUTDOOR AREAS TO LICENSED PREMISES

Board Voted: January 28, 2026

Published: January 29, 2026

On January 28, 2026, the Board of License Commissioners (the “Board”) discussed the alteration of premises applications to remove outdoor areas. The Board noted that in 2024, a new process to add outdoor areas to liquor licenses was created based on Governor Maura Healy’s law “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2024 to Provide for Supplementing certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects.” Based on the changes made by this law, applications for alteration of premises to include an outdoor area that serve alcohol no longer needed Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (“ABCC”) approval. The law required the Board to establish a process by which these requests would be considered, which it did on May 8, 2024.¹ However, a process by which to remove the area was not adopted.

Accordingly, on January 28, 2026, the Board (2-0) established that when seeking to remove an outdoor area from the licensed premises, the business may submit the request either through the renewal application, or through a change to existing license application. The Board further noted the change would be approved/done administratively. There will be a \$50 hearing/change fee, and if there was service of alcohol in the outdoor area, an additional \$25 fee for the cost of the form the Board needs to prepare and submit to the ABCC.

If you have any questions, please email us, license@cambridgema.gov. Thank you.

¹ The Board’s established process also addresses how to add outdoor areas that do not serve alcohol.