

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative, Police, Transportation Codes - Entertainment Zones]

Ordinance amending the Administrative, Police, and Transportation Codes to allow the establishment and management of Entertainment Zones, in which the outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages during designated events is allowed, subject to certain conditions; to establish insurance requirements for Entertainment Zone Events; to establish an Entertainment Zone on Front Street between California Street and Sacramento Street; and to allow the outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages in areas subject to a Shared Space permit where the permit holder also holds a permit or license from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Under current law, outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited except in limited circumstances. (Police Code Art. 1, Sec. 21.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would create Chapter 94B of the Administrative Code to establish controls for Entertainment Zones, within which outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages would be permitted in the public right-of-way during special events licensed or permitted by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) (“Entertainment Zone Events”). During an Entertainment Zone Event, only alcoholic beverages purchased from bars and restaurants or other ABC licensees within the Entertainment Zone could be consumed outdoors. The ordinance would require the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) to issue rules for the implementation of Chapter 94B; approve a Management Plan for each Entertainment Zone; and provide required notifications to ABC. This ordinance would also create the Front Street Entertainment Zone, on Front Street between California and Sacramento Streets. The ordinance would also require any holder of an ABC permit or license that wishes to allow customers to leave the premises with open containers of alcoholic beverages during an Entertainment Zone Event to provide to OEWD a copy of the notice that permit holder must to provide to ABC under state law, indicating its intent to participate in the Entertainment Zone Event.

This ordinance would also amend Article 1, Section 21 of the Police Code to allow outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages during an Entertainment Zone Event and in a permitted Shared Spaces area that is licensed by ABC.

In addition, this ordinance would amend Division 1, Section 6.7 of the Transportation Code to require that an applicant for a street fair permit to close a public street for an Entertainment Zone Event must maintain insurance coverage in a form and amount satisfactory to the City, which shall be no less than the coverage required by Section 6.7(l)(1).

Background Information

In 2023, SB 76 became law, amending the California Business and Professions Code to enable the City and County of San Francisco to establish Entertainment Zones by local ordinance, within which zones individuals may consume alcoholic beverages outdoors during special events licensed by ABC, under certain conditions.

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