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ADVISORY #2026-4

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**Subject:** Patron Dancing Question for On-Premises License Applications

This advisory is issued to inform applicants and stakeholders that, effective immediately, the New York State Liquor Authority (“Authority”) will no longer require on-premises license applicants to respond to questions in the license application concerning patron dancing. New applicants may now omit or leave blank any such questions without impacting the evaluation of their application. The Authority will no longer consider applicant responses to patron dancing questions when making determinations on new on-premises license applications.

**FACTUAL AND STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

The Authority requires all on-premises license applicants to disclose their proposed method of operation as part of their application. This information details how the licensed business intends to operate, including but not limited to, the type of establishment being applied for, entertainment offerings, and other relevant characteristics. These details enable the Authority to evaluate the application based on public convenience and advantage, while also establishing a clear framework for ongoing compliance monitoring and enforcement.

Section 110 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (ABCL) sets forth the information required to be included in license applications and, under Section 110(7), provides the Authority with discretion to require such additional information as may be reasonably necessary. While Section 110(1)(f) requires disclosure of the intent to offer certain forms of adult entertainment, it does not require any such statement regarding patron dancing. Similarly, Section 110-b, which governs municipal notifications, contains no ABCL requirement related to patron dancing.

**NEW DETERMINATION TO REVISE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

While the Authority has historically included questions regarding patron dancing in its on-premises license application forms, upon review, and consistent with Governor Kathy Hochul’s support of live performances and patron dancing, as well as the repeal of New York City’s Cabaret Law, the Authority has determined that consideration of these questions is no longer necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. Other more effective methods are now available to evaluate an applicant’s proposed operations and attendant public safety considerations.

Effective immediately, the Authority will no longer consider questions in the application regarding “patron dancing” when evaluating on-premises license applications.

Applicants will no longer be required to disclose whether patron dancing will be permitted on the Authority’s on-premises license application, method of operation change application, municipal notice form, public interest questionnaire and other related materials. Applicants may now omit or leave blank any such questions without impacting the evaluation of their application.

This policy adjustment applies to all new on-premises license applications, including those currently under review and not yet approved.

LICENSES WITH EXISTING LICENSE STIPULATIONS

On-premises licensees with existing stipulations restricting patron dancing may submit a Method of Operation Change application to the Authority if they wish to permit patron dancing at the premises.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT REMAINS

Questions regarding exotic dancing, topless entertainment, pole dancing and/or lap dancing will remain on all on-premises license applications and related forms. The disclosure of these items is required under ABCL 110(1)(f).

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL REQUIREMENTS

This advisory does not override, preempt or supersede any applicable local or municipal laws, rules, regulations or zoning requirements, including any local cabaret laws or permitting requirements related to dancing or entertainment. Applicants and licensees remain responsible for complying with all such local requirements.

Community Boards and municipalities may submit recommendations and/or proposed stipulations in connection with an application. These recommendations and proposed stipulations are advisory only. They form part of the record considered by the Authority, but they are not binding on the Authority and do not take effect unless accepted or imposed by the Authority.

ENFORCEMENT

The Authority will continue to enforce all applicable laws and regulations related to disorderly premises, noise, nuisance, disturbances and failure to comply with other governmental regulations to ensure that licensed premises operate in a manner consistent with public safety and quality of life.

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This matter was heard and determined by the Members of the Authority at a Full Board meeting held on May 28, 2026 before Chair Lily Fan, Commissioner Edgar De Leon, and Commissioner Maya. The above written advisory was approved by Chair Fan on behalf of the Members of the Authority on May 28, 2026.

Dated: 5/28/26



Donald Roper  
Secretary to the Authority