

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: July 14, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Amy Zukowski, Finance Director

Topic: Amendment to Class 7B Liquor Licenses

PURPOSE

Staff requests that the Village Board approve an amendment to Chapter 4 of the Homewood Municipal Code concerning Class 7B liquor licenses. The Liquor Commissioner supports the amendment to the Class 7B liquor license which would allow flavored malt beverages (FMBs) and low alcohol by volume (ABV) canned spirits to the existing “beer and wine only” liquor license. This amendment requires Board approval.

PROCESS

A Class 7B liquor license is available to establishments that serve food prepared on-site in a fully equipped kitchen with seating at tables or counters. The retail sale of beer and wine for on-premises consumption is allowed. No more than 25 percent of the licensee's gross receipts over any 12-month period can be from alcohol sales. The businesses that hold a Class 7B liquor license are Bergstein’s NY Delicatessen, Home-Slice, and Portillo’s.

Bergstein’s NY Delicatessen has requested to sell FMBs and low-ABV canned spirits. FMBs are brewed from a fermented sugar or malt base, making them legally identical to beer under federal guidelines and the Illinois Liquor Control Act. FMBs are more readily known by their brand names like Twisted Tea Hard Ice Tea, White Claw Hard Seltzer, TRULY Lemonade, Mike’s Hard Lemonade, Corona Sunbrew, and others.

Low-ABV canned spirits are made with distilled spirits mixed with juice and sparkling water. Even though they are packaged in a 12-ounce can and have a low alcohol by volume (ABV) similar to beer, they contain a distilled spirit base.

The proposed change would permit the sale of FMBs and low-ABV canned spirits *only* if they are served to the customer in the original, unbroken, pre-packaged, single-serving manufacturer container not exceeding 12 ounces, with an ABV of 8% or less. Restricting the sales by both packaging and potency prevents a restaurant with a limited license from circumventing the requirements and pouring mixed drinks. The amendment allows license holders to sell low-ABV canned cocktails to customers.

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OUTCOME

Amending the language for Class 7B liquor licenses will allow businesses to offer more options to their dining patrons.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass an ordinance amending the language for Class 7B liquor licenses to allow the sale of flavored malt beverages (FMBs) and low alcohol by volume canned spirits in addition to beer and wine.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Ordinance