



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 498 (Gonzalez)—Alcoholic Beverage Control: Violations

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on SB 498 related to violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act and the administrative review process for retail licenses. The City is proud to sponsor this legislation, to ensure public safety and bolster the retail licensing process.

In recent years, the City of Long Beach has seen the devastating impacts of violations to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act. In 2019, after a minor was illegally sold alcohol at a liquor store, the minor drove under the influence and fatally struck a family of three out walking on Halloween night. In a separate incident in 2022 involving a different alcohol establishment, officers were dispatched to a double fatal hit-and-run collision that tragically killed two Long Beach residents. During incidents like these, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has limited authority to effectively address public safety concerns that result from a violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act.

SB 498 aims to strengthen ABC's administrative review process for retail licenses by expanding their authority to increase administrative fines for violations. The bill further authorizes the department to consider the outcome of the violations—specifically whether there is a subsequent death or injury as a result of the violations—in determining the level of administrative fine or license suspension.

For these reasons, the City requests your signature on SB 498.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District