
Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association

Report From The Executive Director...Scott Wexler

October 2024

Deadline Set for New Year's Eve All Night Permits - On-premises licensees (bars, taverns, restaurants, etc.) seeking to remain open after the county closing hours on New Year's Eve must file a permit application with the SLA at least 45 days prior to the event. This year the **deadline for applying for an All-Night Permit for New Year's Eve is Saturday, November 16, 2024.**

Notice of your intent to apply for the permit must be sent to your local police department or, if there is no local police department, to the County Sheriff's Department. Licensees located within New York City must also send notice to the Local Community Board. Proof that the notice was mailed to the community board and police department (as appropriate) must be included with the application.

Within 10 days of receiving the application, the SLA's Licensing Bureau will review each application based on criteria including the licensee's disciplinary history and whether adequate security plans are in place for the event. If the Licensing Bureau denies the application, the licensee may request review of the decision by a Member of the Authority. A Member of the Authority will review the decision and make a final determination within 10 business days of receipt of the request.

Governor Hochul Signs Temporary Permit Legislation - Governor Hochul signed two bills into law this month that will help on-premises applicants navigate the process of getting – and staying open. The new laws extend eligibility for temporary permits to applicants for locations in New York City and doubles the duration of temporary permits from 90 to 180 days (at the same cost) helping business open more quickly and reducing the paperwork to remain open during the application review process.

With the liquor license application process typically taking 6 – 9 months, obtaining and maintaining a temporary permit is essential to the success of a new restaurant, tavern, or bar. But applicants in New York City subject to the 500-foot law that had not been licensed within the past two years were ineligible for a temporary permit until now. When temporary permits were first created by the legislature, a 90-day duration was adequate to cover the time required for the State Liquor Authority to review an application. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. Extending the duration of a permit to 180-days will reduce the paperwork for applicants and eliminate a headache during this challenging period for a new business. These changes will allow businesses to open faster, put people to work sooner, and to contribute to the economy while awaiting the Liquor Authority's action on their pending applications.