

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC REPORTS RECORD NUMBER OF LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Sacramento -- The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) says a record number of applications for liquor licenses have been filed with the department. Once every year, ABC issues new licenses in counties where the population has increased enough to allow more licenses.

Between September 13 and September 24 a total of 999 applications were accepted for new licenses by ABC district offices throughout California. This is a significant increase over last year when 792 applications were taken and 2002 when 578 applications were taken.

In counties where there are more applications than new licenses allowed, a “priority drawing” will be held to see who gets the new licenses. Under state law, a county is allowed one on-sale general liquor license for every 2,000 people, and one off-sale general liquor license for every 2,500 people. This year, there will be 22 “priority drawings” in 17 different counties.

Los Angeles County leads the list with a total of 156 applications filed. Of those, 108 were for the 25 available on-sale liquor licenses, 28 for the 25 off-sale licenses, 20 for inter-county transfers to permit licenses from other counties into Los Angeles County.

Other counties where priority drawings will be held include Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter and Tulare. The dates and times of the drawings can be obtained by contacting the local ABC district office or on our website at www.abc.ca.gov.

The alcoholic beverage industry is a significant economic generator in the State. With more than 73,000 liquor licenses, alcohol-related businesses comprise approximately seven percent of the State’s one million businesses. Excise taxes on alcoholic beverages generate approximately \$290 million per year in state revenues.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.