

GRAYROBINSON STAYS ON TOP OF LIQUOR LAW, RULE & NON-RULE POLICY CHANGES FOR CLIENTS



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The Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco typically does not have a legislative package proposing new or amended state policies for our Legislature and Governor's approval. 2017 was an exception. The Division, after studying temporary license fee receipts for transfer, change of location, and change of license series or type of license, concluded that the \$100.00 temporary fee should be eliminated in section 561.331, FL Stat. This adjustment was proposed as a 2017 Department of Business & Professional Regulation bill for the Florida Legislature to consider.

After many legislative public committee meetings, the bill eliminating this fee/tax passed both the Florida Senate and House of Representatives. The bill eliminating temporary license fees for transfer, change of location, and change of license series or type of license, was approved by Governor Scott and became law last year on July 1, 2017.

This removal of payment to the state and savings on tax for alcohol license applicants was a win/win for the industry and Florida government. For more information, please contact GrayRobinson's Nationwide Alcohol Industry Team at (866) 382-5132 or via e-mail at beveragelaw@gray-robinson.com

¹ **John J. Harris** is a governmental consultant with GrayRobinson. While not a lawyer, John has 50 years of experience as a government alcohol and tobacco regulator and consultant in state and local alcohol beverage and tobacco licensing, enforcement and excise tax. Based in the firm's Tallahassee office, he is the former director of Florida's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, one of many positions he held during his 28 year career with that state regulatory agency. John has specific knowledge of licensed alcohol beverage laws and regulations, as well as procedures and policies followed by many state regulatory agencies across the country.