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2 **BY AUTHORITY**

3 ORDINANCE NO.  
4 SERIES OF 2025

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB25-1002  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:  
Business, Arts, Workforce, Climate & Aviation Services

6  
7 **A BILL**

8  
9 **For an ordinance submitting to a vote of the qualified and registered electors of**  
10 **the City and County of Denver at the special municipal election on November 4,**  
11 **2025, a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver**  
12 **renaming the Department of Excise and Licenses to the Department of Licensing**  
13 **and Consumer Protection and making conforming amendments in connection**  
14 **therewith.**

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16 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

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18 **Section 1.** There is hereby submitted to the properly qualified and registered electors of  
19 the City and County of Denver for their approval or rejection at a special municipal election to be  
20 conducted at the same time and in conjunction with the coordinated election to be held in the City  
21 and County of Denver on November 4, 2025, a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City  
22 and County of Denver, as follows:

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24 **Effective upon publication and filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with**  
25 **the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, the following sections of the**  
26 **Charter of the City and County of Denver are amended to read as follows:**

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28 **§ 2.2.6 - Administrative appointments.**

29 (D) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Mayor shall nominate  
30 in a reasonable and timely manner, and, by and with the consent of City Council, appoint the  
31 following officers:

32 (viii) The ~~Director of Excise and Licenses~~Manager of Licensing and Consumer  
33 Protection, as described in section 2.7.2 of this Charter;

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35 **§ 2.2.10 - Mayor's cabinet.**

36 (A) The Mayor and the cabinet, which shall consist of the Manager of the Department

of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Manager of the Department of Finance, the Manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Manager of the Department of Environmental Health, the Manager of the Department of Safety, the Manager of the Department of General Services, the Manager of the Department of Human Services, the Manager of the Department of Aviation, the Manager of the Department of Community Planning and Development, the Manager of the Department of Human Rights and Community Partnerships, the Manager of Licensing and Consumer Protection, and the City Attorney, shall formulate the general administrative policies of the City and County, and each Manager and Officer in its department, shall be responsible for and have full power to carry out such policies.

## **PART 7. - ~~EXCISE AND LICENSES~~LICENSING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

### **§ 2.7.1 - ~~Department of Excise and Licenses~~Licensing and Consumer Protection created; powers and duties.**

There shall be and hereby is created a Department of ~~Excise and Licenses~~Licensing and Consumer Protection which shall have the duty ~~of to protect the public interest through the administration of business and professional licenses. The Department shall determining the qualifications of applicants for licenses, of determining whether such licenses should be issued, renewed, or suspended, or revoked, pursuant to law, and of ordering such licenses revoked,~~ except for those licenses issued in connection with motor vehicles. ~~The Department shall provide as nearly as practicable for the consolidation of the clerical functions of receiving applications for licenses, and fees therefor, of the issuance of license certificates upon order of the department or agency charged with the substantive administration of such licensing functions.~~ No license or permit shall issue until the fee therefor has been paid to the Treasurer.

### **§ 2.7.2 - ~~Director of Excise and Licenses~~Manager of Licensing and Consumer Protection.**

The ~~Director of Excise and Licenses~~Manager of Licensing and Consumer Protection shall be in full charge and control of the Department, shall devote full time to the duties of the office, shall be nominated and, by and with the consent of City Council, appointed by the Mayor, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Mayor.

### **§ 2.7.3 - Regulation of licenses and excises to be prescribed by ordinance.**

1 ~~What excise taxes shall be imposed, and the purposes thereof, and Except as otherwise~~  
2 ~~provided by the Charter, what license fees shall be exacted, for regulatory or revenue purposes,~~  
3 ~~and what calling activity, business, or occupation shall be licensed, and the conditions upon which~~  
4 ~~licenses and permits shall be issued shall, except as otherwise provided by the Charter be~~  
5 ~~prescribed by general ordinance.~~

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7 **§ 2.7.4 - Licensing authority for alcohol beverages.**

8 The Manager of Licensing and Consumer Protection is hereby designated as and shall  
9 perform the functions of the licensing authority ~~Under any designation by state laws of any~~  
10 ~~County officers to perform the functions of a licensing authority in any regulatory or licensing~~  
11 ~~program pertaining to malt, vinous, or spirituous liquors, or fermented malt beverages, the Director~~  
12 ~~of Excise and Licenses shall perform the functions of such licensing authority; provided, however,~~  
13 ~~that said Director~~ Manager ~~is authorized to appoint one or more hearing officers, who shall be~~  
14 ~~employees of the Department to conduct such hearings as may be assigned, to consult with the~~  
15 ~~Director~~ Manager ~~with respect thereto, and to certify the record or a summary thereof as required~~  
16 ~~by the Director~~ Manager ~~along with his or her recommended findings, conclusions, and decisions.~~  
17 Any party to such hearing shall have an opportunity to file with the ~~Director~~ Manager written  
18 objections to any such summary, and to the recommended findings, conclusions, and decisions  
19 of the hearing officer; prior to the ~~Director's~~ Manager's decision thereon.

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21 **§ 9.1.1 - Career Service personnel system.**

- 22 (E) The Career Service shall comprise all employees of the City and their positions except:  
23 (iii) ~~the Director of Excise and Licenses~~ [Reserved];

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25 **§ 9.2.1 - Salaries and benefits of certain Charter officers set by ordinance.**

26 The annual salaries and benefits of the following officers of the City and County of Denver shall be  
27 set by ordinance as hereinafter provided:

28 (B) Appointed Charter officers. Manager of the Department of Public Health and  
29 Environment; Manager of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure; City Attorney;  
30 Manager of the Department of Safety; Manager of the Department of Finance; Manager of the  
31 Department of Parks and Recreation; Manager of the Department of General Services; Manager of  
32 the Department of Human Services; Manager of the Department of Aviation; Manager of the  
33 Department of Community Planning and Development; ~~Director of Excise and Licenses~~ Manager of

Licensing and Consumer Protection; Manager of Human Rights and Community Partnerships.

**§ 9.10.2 - Definitions.**

As used in this Section, the following terms shall, unless the context requires a different interpretation, have the following meanings:

(G) "Executive employees" means bargaining-eligible employees of the Mayor, the Managers making up the Mayor's Cabinet, ~~the Director of the Department of Excise and Licenses,~~ and all other bargaining-eligible employees employed in executive offices, agencies, and departments under control of the Mayor.

**Section 2.** The ballot shall contain the following title and submission clause:

**REFERRED QUESTION \_\_\_\_\_**

Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to change the name of the Department of Excise and Licenses to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, change the title of the Director of Excise and Licenses to the Manager of Licensing and Consumer Protection, add the Manager of Licensing and Consumer Protection to the Mayor's cabinet, and update outdated language regarding licensing powers and duties?

**Section 3.** The proper officials of the City and County of Denver as are charged with duties relating to the election shall, before the election, issue such calls, make such certifications and publications, give such notices, make such appointments, and do all such other acts and things in connection with the submission of this Charter amendment to the registered electors of the City and County of Denver at the election as are required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado and the Charter and ordinances of the City and County of Denver.

**Section 4.** Pursuant to Section 31-2-210(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, the Clerk and Recorder is directed to publish a notice of the City's special election and to include in that notice the full text of the proposed amendments as stated in this Ordinance. Such notice is to be published within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this Ordinance and not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before said election.

**Section 5.** The ballots cast at such election shall be canvassed and the results ascertained, determined, and certified in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado and the Charter and ordinances of the City and County of

1 Denver.

2 **Section 6.** If any section, paragraph, clause, or other portion of this ordinance is held to  
3 be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance  
4 shall not be affected.

5 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: July 16, 2025

6 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: N/A

7 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL 07/28/2025

8 Anuradha P. Sandora - PRESIDENT

9 APPROVED: Michael C. Johnston - MAYOR 07/30/2025  
Michael C. Johnston (Jul 30, 2025 12:57:26 MDT)

10 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
11 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
12 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER  
13

14 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_

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16 PREPARED BY: Anshul Bagga, Assistant City Attorney DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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18 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the  
19 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed  
20 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §  
21 3.2.6 of the Charter.  
22

23 Katie McLoughlin, Interim City Attorney

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25 BY: Anshul Bagga, Assistant City Attorney DATE: 07/17/2025