

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Noah Montano</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)  
*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 21 FEB 2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB478 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rebecca Dow and Joshua N. Hernandez	<b>Agency Name and Code</b>	790 – Department of Public Safety
<b>Short Title:</b>	Liquor License Transfer Criteria	<b>Number:</b>	
		<b>Person Writing</b>	Randy Larcher
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: Identical to HB498  
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

This bill revises longstanding criteria for the transfer of dispenser's and retailer's liquor licenses, and for a rural dispenser's, rural retailer's and rural club license. In the process, does away with municipal or county authority to prohibit by election the transfer of a liquor license from another local option district.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal impact to DPS.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

No significant issues to DPS.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

No performance implications to DPS.

By removing municipal or county authority to prohibit liquor license transfers through local elections, the bill may lead to liquor licenses being transferred to areas where they may not be appropriate. Local communities often have unique needs and preferences regarding alcohol availability, and this change could override local control, potentially allowing liquor licenses in areas where they might contribute to public safety concerns or community opposition.

Municipalities and counties often regulate liquor licenses to address specific public health and safety concerns in their regions. Removing local authority to prevent the transfer of liquor licenses could undermine their ability to protect the health and safety of their residents, particularly in areas that may already have issues with alcohol-related crime or disorderly conduct.

Liquor establishments often require additional law enforcement resources to ensure that they comply with regulations and maintain public order. If liquor licenses are transferred to areas without regard for the capacity of local authorities to manage them, law enforcement agencies could face an increased burden, potentially diverting resources from other public safety needs in the community.

In areas with limited oversight due to the reduction of local control, there is a concern that this could open the door for increased illegal activities, such as underage drinking or unlicensed alcohol sales. With fewer checks and balances, law enforcement may find it harder to effectively monitor and control alcohol distribution in certain regions.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

No administrative implications to DPS.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

No conflict, duplication, companionship or relationship to DPS.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

No technical issues to DPS.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

No other substantive issues to DPS.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Not applicable as no impact to DPS.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo will remain.

**AMENDMENTS**

None at this time.