Both Federal and State of Illinois alcohol beverage laws generally prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquor from a distributor to a retailer on consignment, under a conditional sale, or with the privilege of return. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, public officials are considering the cancellation of St. Patrick’s Day Parade Events (“Parade Events”) scheduled to occur throughout the State on March 13, 2020 through March 15, 2020.

Because of the possibility of the cancellation of Parade Events, it has become necessary to consider the authorization of the return of alcoholic liquor sold by distributors to retailers in anticipation of the Parade Events. In past years, alcohol beverage distributors and retailers have purchased a higher than usual volume of alcoholic liquor to ensure enough product supply for patrons attending Parade Events. If the Parade Events are cancelled, alcohol beverage distributors and retailers could be left with an oversupply of unsalable or unusable of products which could not have been anticipated at the time of the original order for such products.

Therefore, if Parade Events are cancelled, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (“State Commission”) is authorizing a one-time return of alcoholic liquor based on unanticipated emergency circumstances. **Returns are authorized under the following conditions only if authorized public officials cancel Parade Events:**

1. Distributors may accept the return of beer from retailers who ordered beer in anticipation of Parade Events and reasonably related to such Parade Events.
2. Distributors may accept the return of wine and spirits from retailers who ordered wine and spirits in anticipation of the Parade Events and reasonably related to such Parade Events if the returns are first authorized by the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.
3. All such returns shall be completed within seven (7) days of the cancellation of the Parade Event unless the licensee can demonstrate to the State Commission reasons for an extension.
4. All such returns shall be documented on customary and usual credit invoices and be available for inspection according to all State Commission records retention and records availability rules (e.g. retailer 90-day invoice requirement; three years records retention schedule).

**Chima Enyia**

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