

**Coalition of Musicians and
Dancers to Eliminate
Regulations Against Music
and Dancing**

<http://dance-music-regulation.com/>

December 7, 2024

The Honorable Lily M. Fan
Chair, New York State Liquor Authority
163 W 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
c/o Legal@sla.ny.gov

Re: Method of Operation Removed from SLA Public Databases

Dear Chair Fan

I am writing to you concerning the presentation of on-premises license Method of Operation data previously available in the Open Access license data. That data is not made available in LAMP and seems to have been intentionally removed.

We are a coalition of musicians and social dancers – although encouraged by the elimination of the cabaret license requirement and the recent rezoning to allow dancing in establishments with an occupancy under 200, we remain concerned as to requirements of the SLA.

Previously, the license database provided Method of Operation information in three columns or fields.

- The column “Method of Operation” actually provided a general description of the operations and seems to be still available, although mislabeled.
- The column “Days-Hours-of-Operation”. This appeared to have contained conditions imposed by community boards.
- The column “Other” apparently is included in the Method of Operation form or perhaps added by the Authority.

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3. Will premises have music? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 3a. If yes: ☐ LIVE ☐ RECORDED ☐ DJ ☐ JUKE BOX ☐ KARAOKE
4. Will the premises permit dancing? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 4a. If YES, and are located in NYC, do you have a Cabaret permit issued by the City of New York ?
☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PENDING
- If Yes, submit a copy of the permit. If Pending, a copy must be submitted prior to issuance of the license.
- 4b. If dancing is permitted, who will be permitted to dance?
☐ Patrons ☐ Employees for entertainment ☐ Both
- 4c. If YES, will there be exotic dancing including, but not limited to, topless entertainment, pole dancing and/or lap dancing? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 4d. Will there be topless entertainment?
☐ YES ☐ NO

We used that database to prepare statistics concerning the Methods of Operations of license holders concerning music and dancing. We were able to identify the number of license holder in the five New York City Counties and the number specifically prohibiting or allowing patron dancing, live music, amplified music, certain types of music, and DJ music. See below for a 2023 analysis.

Thus, policy makers do not have the data needed to understand the effect of laws and regulations applicable to the SLA as well as Community Boards. Moreover, members of the public cannot ascertain what conditions are in an establishment's Method of Operation, without filing a FOIL request.

Few are aware of the large number of establishments where live music is prohibited explicitly – or implicitly prohibited because not included as a Method of Operation.

I am asking that the SLA restore providing this information to the public in a database to allow analysis.

In addition, I understand that there may be an intention to no longer provide access to the database that underlies IAMP and ask that the SLA not further restrict information.

We would be pleased to meet with you concerning this situation at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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Excerpt from 2023 Analysis

<http://dance-music-regulation.com/document/state-liquor-authority-regulation-of-dancing-and-music-method-of-operations-and-license-database/>

Liquor Licenses in New York City.	20,255
Eating and Drinking Establishment On-Premises Licenses.	11,257
Licenses Allowing Patron Dancing	278
Licenses explicitly prohibiting patron dancing.	2314
Licenses explicitly or implicitly not allowing dancing	10,979
Licenses explicitly allowing Live Music	945
Live Music Licenses With Conditions Such as Acoustic, Number of Musicians, Type of Musical Instruments, Private Events etc.	361
Licenses Explicitly Prohibiting Live Music.	1032
Licenses Explicitly/Implicitly Prohibiting Live Music	9,134
Recorded Music Explicitly Allowed	6,379
About 9100 licenses have no conditions relating to music or dancing. Approximately 9,134 licenses do not allow live music, with 1032 explicit prohibitions: 945 licenses explicitly allow live music.	

Concerning dancing, 2314 licenses explicitly prohibit dancing; only 278 licenses specifically allow "patron dancing."