

Nefndarsvið alþingis

Frumvarp til laga

Breytingar á lögum um veitingastaði, gististaði og skemmtanahald nr. 85/2007.

(Heimaging, veitingastaðir án áfengisveitinga, ótímabundin rekstrarleyfi).

Pingskjal 731-457.

Undirritaður vill koma fram athugasemdum sínum á fyrirhuguðum breytingum á 3 grein laganna sem snýr að breyttri skilgreiningu á heimagingingu og þeim nýju takmörkunum sem henni eru settar. Sú staðreynd að fækka eigi herbergjunum úr 8 niður í 5 og setja mun strangari tímatakmarkanir gerir það að verkum að margir einstaklingar sem hafa breytt húsnæði sínu til að falla undir núverandi lög komast í þrot þar sem ekki er alltaf grundvöllur fyrir því að sækja um breytt leyfi.

18 April 2016

Without prejudice,

Reasons for objecting the proposed new law and more specifically to the intention to limit the maximum number of rooms in a home stay to 5 rooms:

As the owner of Villa Accommodations in Skólavörðustígur 30 in Reykjavik I was surprised to learn about the idea to limit the number of rooms allowed within a home stay license. It took me a great deal of effort to renovate and invest in the property and to make sure that clients enjoy their stay in such a central location of great historical significance. To keep an old building within the ever changing regulations is as difficult as it can get.

As foreign investors to Iceland both my mother and myself have witnesses time and again how personal business interests take precedence over the national interests of the country.

This case however is special since once the law passes it would not only adhere to the big businesses whim of stopping small business owners from competing with them, or give more power to the already almighty city of Reykjavik.

**It will, in the long run, actually work against the interests of the big business owners and the city.**

Less taxes will be collected since less medium cost-range tourists will visit Iceland.

Less new home stay places will mean that there will be less demand for flights from that particular client segment market. That might seem as a good thing within the current framework of a rapidly growing market however ignoring the specific and huge client segment that do not wish to either stay in a big hotel or sleep in a camping site can lead to destabilization of the entire industry when things will get a bit shaky, and using historical events as good predicates - they will.

Adding regulations to an already over-regulated industry will deter potential investors from investing their time and resources in the accommodation business. It will signal the less fortunate Icelanders that only the rich and well connected ones can get their way.

Sincerely,

Villa Accommodation Owner

Raphael Steinberg 2311753349