

**TITLE 8****ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**<sup>1</sup>**CHAPTER**

1. INTOXICATING LIQUORS.
2. BEER.

**CHAPTER 1****INTOXICATING LIQUORS****SECTION**

8-101. Prohibited generally.

**8-101. Prohibited generally.** Except as authorized by applicable laws<sup>2</sup> and/or ordinances, it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, receive, possess, store, transport, sell, furnish, or solicit orders for, any intoxicating liquor within this city. "Intoxicating liquor" shall be defined to include whiskey, wine, "home brew," "moonshine," and all other intoxicating, spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors and beers which contain more than five percent (5%) of alcohol by weight.

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Minors in beer places, etc.: title 11, chapter 1.

State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, title 57.

<sup>2</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 39-17-701, et seq.

## CHAPTER 2

### BEER

#### SECTION

- 8-201. Beer board established.
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**8-201. Beer board established.** There is hereby established a beer board to be composed of the board of mayor and aldermen. The mayor shall be the chairman of the beer board.

**8-202. Meetings of the beer board.** All meetings of the beer board shall be open to the public. The board shall hold regular meetings in the city hall at such times as it shall prescribe. When there is business to come before the beer board, a special meeting may be called by the chairman provided he gives a reasonable notice thereof to each member. The board may adjourn a meeting at any time to another time and place.

**8-203. Record of beer board proceedings to be kept.** The recorder shall make a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the beer board. The record shall be a public record and shall contain at least the following: The date of each meeting; the names of the board members present and absent; the names of the members introducing and seconding motions and resolutions, etc., before the board; a copy of each such motion or

resolution presented; the vote of each member thereon; and the provisions of each beer permit issued by the board.

**8-204. Requirements for beer board quorum and action.** The attendance of at least a majority of the members of the beer board shall be required to constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Matters before the board shall be decided by a majority of the members present if a quorum is constituted. Any member present but not voting shall be deemed to have cast a "nay" vote.

**8-205. Powers and duties of the beer board.**<sup>1</sup> The beer board shall have the power and it is hereby directed to regulate the selling, storing for sale, distributing for sale, and manufacturing of beer within this municipality in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

**8-206. "Beer" defined.** The term "beer" as used in this chapter shall mean and include all beers, ales, and other malt liquors having an alcoholic content of not more than five percent (5%) by weight, except wine as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-3-101(a)(20); provided however, that no more than forty-nine percent (49%) of the overall alcoholic content of such beverage may be derived from the addition of flavors and other non-beverage ingredients containing alcohol.

**8-207. Permit required for engaging in beer business.**<sup>2</sup> It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, store for sale, distribute for sale, or manufacture beer without first making application to and obtaining a permit from the beer board. The application shall be made on such form as the board shall prescribe and/or furnish, and pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-104(a), shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Said fee shall be in the form of a cashier's check payable to the Town of Alexandria. Each applicant must be a person of good moral character and he must certify that he has read and is familiar with the provisions of this chapter.

**a. Application for certificate of good moral character**<sup>1</sup>. Before any character certificate, as required by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-3-208 or a renewal as required by § 57-3-213 shall be signed by the mayor, or

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference  
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-106.

<sup>2</sup>State law reference  
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-103.

by any aldermen,<sup>2</sup> an application in writing shall be filed with the city recorder on a form to be provided by the city, giving the following information:

- (1) Name, age and address of the applicant.
- (2) Number of years residence in the city.
- (3) Occupation or business and length of time engaged in such occupation or business.
- (4) Whether or not the applicant has been convicted of a violation of any state or federal law or of the violation of this code or any city ordinance, and the details of any such conviction.
- (5) If employed, the name and address of employer.
- (6) If in business, the kind of business and location thereof.
- (7) The location of the proposed store for the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- (8) The name and address of the owner of the store.
- (9) If the applicant is a partnership, the name, age and address of each partner, and his occupation, business or employer. If the applicant is a corporation, the name, age and address of the stockholders and their degrees of ownership of stock in the corporation.

The information in the application shall be verified by the oath of the applicant. If the applicant is a partnership or a corporation, the application shall be verified by the oath of each partner, or by the president of the corporation.

**b. Applicant to agree to comply with laws.** The applicant for a certificate of good moral character shall agree in writing to comply with the state and federal laws and ordinances of the city and rules and regulations of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission of the State for sale of alcoholic beverages.

**c. Applicant to appear before board of mayor and aldermen; duty to give information.** An applicant for a certificate of good moral character may be required to appear in person before the board of mayor and aldermen for such reasonable examination as may be desired by the board.

**d. Action on application.** Every application for a certificate of good moral character shall be referred to the chief of police for investigation and to the city attorney for review, each of whom shall submit his findings to the board of mayor and aldermen within thirty (30) days of the date each application was filed. The mayor or a majority of the board of mayor and aldermen may issue a certificate of moral character to any applicant.

**e. Residency requirement.**<sup>1</sup> The applicant for a certificate of good moral character shall have been a bona fide resident of the State of Tennessee for not less than one (1) year at the time his application is filed. *Updated Dec 2008.* If the applicant is a partnership or a corporation, each of

the partners or stockholders must have been a bona fide resident of the State of Tennessee not less than one (1) year at the time the application is filed. *Updated Dec 2008.* This section shall not apply to any applicant who has been continuously licensed pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-3-204, for seven (7) consecutive years.

**f. Applicants for certificate who have criminal record.** No certificate of good moral character for the manufacture or sale at wholesale or retail of alcoholic beverages or for the manufacture or vinting of wine shall be issued to any person, (or if the applicant is a partnership, any partner, or if the applicant is a corporation, any stockholder), who, within ten (10) years preceding the application for such certificate of good moral character, has been convicted of any felony or of any offense under the laws of the state or of the United States prohibiting the sale, possession, transportation, storage or otherwise handling of intoxicating liquors, or who has during such period been engaged in business, alone or with others, in violation of such laws.

**g. Only one establishment to be operated by retailer.** No retailer shall operate, directly or indirectly, more than one place of business for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the city. The word "indirectly," as used in this section, shall include and mean any kind of interest in another place of business by way of stock, ownership, loan, partner's interest or otherwise.

**h. Where establishments may be located.**<sup>1</sup> It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or maintain any retail establishment for the sale, storage or distribution of alcoholic beverages in the city except at locations zoned for that purpose, but in no event shall any establishment be located within one hundred (100) feet of a hospital, church or school, or any other place of public gathering, measured in a straight line between the nearest point on the property line upon which sits the building from which the alcoholic beverages will be sold, stored or distributed, and the nearest point on the property line of the hospital, school, church, or other place of public gathering.

**8-208. Privilege tax.**<sup>2</sup> There is hereby imposed on the business of selling, distributing, storing or manufacturing beer a privilege tax of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Any person, firm, corporation, joint stock company, syndicate or association engaged in the sale, distribution, storage

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

See *Watkins v. Naifeh*, 635 S.W.2d 104 (Tenn. 1982) and other cases cited therein which establish the straight line method of measurement.

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-3-208(c).

<sup>2</sup> State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-104(b).

or manufacture of beer shall remit the tax each successive January 1 to the Town of Alexandria, Tennessee. At the time a new permit is issued to any business subject to this tax, the permit holder shall be required to pay the privilege tax on a prorated basis for each month or portion thereof remaining until the next tax payment date.

**8-209. Beer permits shall be restrictive.** All beer permits shall be restrictive as to the type of beer business authorized under them. Separate permits shall be required for selling at retail, storing, distributing, and manufacturing. Beer permits for retail sale of beer may be further restricted so as to authorize sales only for off premises consumption. A single permit may be issued for on premise and off premise consumption. It shall be unlawful for any beer permit holder to engage in any type or phase of the beer business not expressly authorized by his permit. It shall likewise be unlawful for him not to comply with any and all express restrictions or conditions in his permit.<sup>1</sup>

**8-210. Limitation on number of permits.** The number of licenses for the sale of beer shall be limited to five (5). *Updated May 25, 2021.* Provided that all requirements of this chapter are complied with, all existing permits for the sale of beer within the corporate limits of the city at the date of the passage of this ordinance shall continue to be renewed. A new permit may be issued to a qualified purchaser of an existing establishment in which a permit is now held for the sale of beer, and the permit used only within the establishment or building purchased.

**8-211. Interference with public health, safety, and morals prohibited.** No permit authorizing the sale of beer will be issued when such business would cause congestion of traffic or would interfere with schools, residences, churches, or other places of public gathering, or would otherwise interfere with the public health, safety, and morals. In no event will a permit be issued authorizing the manufacture or storage of beer, or the sale of beer

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-301(a) provides that neither beer permit holders nor persons employed by them may have been “convicted of any violation of the laws against possession, sale, manufacture and transportation of intoxicating liquor or any crime involving moral turpitude” within the previous ten years. Under Tennessee Code Annotated § 57-5-301(b), violations are punishable under state law as a Class A misdemeanor. Under Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-302, city courts may only enforce local ordinances that mirror, substantially duplicate or incorporate by reference Class C misdemeanors. City courts are thus prohibited from enforcing ordinances making violations of Tennessee Code Annotated § 57-5-301(a) a local offense.

within one hundred (100) feet of any school, residence, church or other place of public gathering. The distances shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point on the property line upon which sits the building from which the beer will be manufactured, stored or sold to the nearest point on the property line of the school, residence, church or other place of public gathering. No permit shall be suspended, revoked or denied on the basis of proximity of the establishment to a school, residence, church, or other place of public gathering if a valid permit had been issued to any business on that same location unless beer is not sold, distributed or manufactured at that location during any continuous six-month period. Permit shall be issued only in areas zoned for beer sales.

**8-212. Prohibited conduct or activities by beer permit holders, employees and persons engaged in the sale of beer.** It shall be unlawful for any beer permit holder, employee or person engaged in the sale of beer to:

- 1) Employ any minor under 18 years of age in the sale, storage, distribution or manufacture of beer.
- 2) Make or allow the sale of beer between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 6:00 A.M. on weekdays and between the hours of 12:00 Midnight Saturday and 12:00 noon on Sunday.
- 3) Allow any person under twenty-one (21) years of age to loiter in or about his place of business.
- 4) Make or allow any sale of beer to any intoxicated person or to any feeble-minded, insane, or otherwise mentally incapacitated person.
- 5) Allow drunk persons to loiter about his premises.
- 6) Serve, sell, or allow the consumption on his premises of any alcoholic beverage with an alcoholic content of more than five percent (5%) by weight.
- 7) Allow pool or billiard playing in the same room where beer is sold and/or consumed.
- 8) Fail to provide and maintain separate sanitary toilet facilities for men and women.

**8-213. Revocation or suspension of beer permits.** The beer board shall have the power to revoke or suspend any beer permit issued under the provisions of this chapter when the holder thereof is guilty of making a false statement or misrepresentation in his application or of violating any of the provisions of this chapter. However, no beer permit shall be revoked or suspended until a public hearing is held by the board after reasonable notice to all the known parties in interest. Revocation or suspension proceedings may be initiated by the police chief or by any member of the beer board.

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-608, the beer board shall not revoke or suspend the permit of a “responsible vendor” qualified under the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated § 57-5-606 for a clerk’s illegal sale of beer to a minor if the clerk is properly certified and has attended annual meetings since the clerk’s original certification, unless the vendor’s status as a certified responsible vendor has been revoked by the alcoholic beverage commission. If the responsible vendor’s certification has been revoked, the vendor shall be punished by the beer board as if the vendor were not certified as a responsible vendor. “Clerk” means any person working in a capacity to sell beer directly to consumers for off-premises consumption. Under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-608, the alcoholic beverage commission shall revoke a vendor’s status as a responsible vendor upon notification by the beer board that the board has made a final determination that the vendor has sold beer to a minor for the second time in a consecutive twelve-month period. The revocation shall be for three (3) years.

**8-214. Civil penalty in lieu of revocation or suspension.**

(1) Definition. “Responsible vendor” means a person, corporation or other entity that has been issued a permit to sell beer for off-premises consumption and has received certification by the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission under the “Tennessee Responsible Vendor Act of 2006,” Tennessee Code Annotated, § 57-5-601, *et seq.*

(2) Penalty, revocation or suspension. The beer board may, at the time it imposes a revocation or suspension, offer a permit holder that is not a responsible vendor the alternative of paying a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for each offense of making or permitting to be made any sales to minors, or a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for any other offense.

The beer board may impose on a responsible vendor a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each offense of making or permitting to be made any sales to minors or for any other offense.

If a civil penalty is offered as an alternative to revocation or suspension, the holder shall have seven (7) days within which to pay the civil penalty before the revocation or suspension shall be imposed. If the civil penalty is paid within that time, the revocation or suspension shall be deemed withdrawn.

Payment of the civil penalty in lieu of revocation or suspension by a permit holder shall be an admission by the holder of the violation so charged and shall be paid to the exclusion of any other penalty that the city may impose.

**8-215. Loss of clerk's certification for sale to minor.** If the beer board determines that a clerk of an off-premises beer permit holder certified under Tennessee Code Annotated, 57-5-606, sold beer to a minor, the beer board shall report the name of the clerk to the alcoholic beverage commission within fifteen (15) days of determination of the sale. The certification of the clerk shall be invalid and the clerk may not reapply for a new certificate for a period of one (1) year from the date of the beer board's determination.

**8-216. Violations.** Except as provided in § 8-215, any violation of this chapter shall constitute a civil offense and shall, upon conviction, be punishable by a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code. Each day a violation shall be allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

**8-217. Fines.** Fines will be given as follows: The first offense on a violation of this ordinance will constitute a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) penalty. The second offense will be given a two thousand five hundred dollar (\$2500.00) penalty and the permit will be suspended for seven (7) days. On the third offense, the permit will be pulled from the business owner.