

TITLE 8

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES¹

CHAPTER

1. BEER.

CHAPTER 1

BEER²

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8-101. Beer board established. The board of commissioners shall act as the beer board. (1978 Code, § 2-201)

8-102. 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

¹State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, title 57.

²State law reference
For a leading case on a municipality's authority to regulate beer, see the Tennessee Supreme Court decision in Watkins v. Naifeh, 635 S.W.2d 104 (1982).

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. (1978 Code, § 2-202)

8-103. 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. (1978 Code, § 2-203)

8-104. 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. (1978 Code, § 2-204)

8-105. Powers and duties of the beer board. 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 city in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. (1978 Code, § 2-205)

8-106. "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. (1978 Code, § 2-206)

8-107. Permit required for engaging in beer business. 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, § 57-5-101(b), shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). Said fee shall be in the form of a cashier's check payable to the City of Niota. Each applicant must be a person of good moral character and certify that he has read and is familiar with the provisions of this chapter. (1978 Code, § 2-207, modified)

8-108. 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 the retail sale of beer may be further restricted by the beer board so as to authorize sales only for off premises 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 which may be written into his permit by the beer board. (1978 Code, § 2-208)

8-109. Issuance of permits to aliens prohibited. No permit to engage in the beer business shall be granted by the beer board to any person not a citizen of the United States nor to any syndicate or association unless all of the members thereof are citizens of the United States. (1978 Code, § 2-209)

8-110. 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, 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 storage, sale, or manufacture of beer at places within three hundred (300) feet of any school, church or other such place of public gathering, measured along street rights of way. (1978 Code, § 2-210)

8-111. Issuance of permits to persons convicted of certain crimes prohibited. No beer permit shall be issued to any person who has been convicted for the possession, sale, manufacture, or transportation of intoxicating liquor, or any crime involving moral turpitude within the past ten (10) years. (1978 Code, § 2-211)

8-112. Prohibited conduct or activities by beer permit holders. It shall be unlawful for any beer permit holder to:

(1) Employ any minor under eighteen (18) years of age in the sale, storage, distribution, or manufacture of beer. (This provision shall not apply to grocery stores selling beer for off-premises consumption only.)

(2) Make or allow any sale of beer between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 A.M. during any night of the week, between the hours of 12:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. on Sunday; and on election days before and while the polls are lawfully open.

(3) Allow any loud, unusual, or obnoxious noises to emanate from his premises.

(4) Make or allow any sale of beer to a minor under twenty-one (21) years of age.

- (5) Allow any minor under twenty-one (21) years of age to loiter in or about his place of business.
- (6) Make or allow any sale of beer to any intoxicated person or to any feeble-minded, insane, or otherwise mentally incapacitated person.
- (7) Allow drunk or disreputable persons to loiter about his premises.
- (8) 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.
- (9) Allow dancing on his premises.
- (10) Allow pool or billiard playing in the same room where beer is sold and/or consumed.
- (11) Fail to provide and maintain separate sanitary toilet facilities for men and women. (1978 Code, § 2-212, modified, as amended by Ord. #8-117, Oct. 2007, and Ord. #8-117, Sept. 2011)

8-113. Revocation or suspension of beer permits. (1) The beer board shall have the power to revoke 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 until a public hearing is held by the board after reasonable notice to all the known parties in interest. Revocation proceedings may be initiated by the police chief or by any member of the municipal governing body.

(2) 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. (1978 Code, § 2-213, as amended by Ord. #8-117, Oct. 2007)

8-114. Prohibited in residential areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to open, maintain or operate any place where beer may be sold on any premises located where fifty per cent (50%) or more of the land is used for residential purposes. (1978 Code, § 2-214)

8-115. 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, § 7-5-601, 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. (as replaced by Ord. #8-117, Oct. 2007)

8-116. Privilege tax. There is hereby imposed on the business of selling, distributing, storing or manufacturing beer an annual privilege tax of one hundred dollars (\$100). Any person, firm, corporation, joint stock company, syndicate or association engaged in the sale, distribution, storage or manufacture of beer shall remit the tax on January 1, 1994, and each successive January 1, to the City of Niota, 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.

8-117. 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. (as added by Ord. #8-117, Oct. 2007)