

TITLE 8

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES¹

CHAPTER

1. INTOXICATING LIQUORS.
2. BEER.

CHAPTER 1

INTOXICATING LIQUORS

SECTION

8-101. Prohibited generally.

8-101. Prohibited generally. Except as authorized by applicable laws² 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. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

¹State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, title 57.

²State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, title 39, chapter 17.

CHAPTER 2

BEER¹

SECTION

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8-201. Beer board established. There is hereby established a beer board to be composed of the board of commissioners. The mayor shall be the chairman of the beer board. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

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 is given to each member. The board may adjourn a meeting at any time to another time and place. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

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

¹State 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).

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, before the board; a copy of each such motion or resolution presented; the vote of each meeting; the names of the board members present and absent; the names of the members introducing and seconding motions and resolutions, before the board; a copy of such motion or resolution presented; the vote of each member thereon; and the provisions of each beer permit issued by the board. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

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. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

8-205. 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. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

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. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

8-207. 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 T.C.A. 57-5-101(b), and shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).¹ Said fee shall be payable to the City of Rockford. Each applicant must be a person of good moral character and certify he has read and is familiar with the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991, as replaced by ord. No. 93-3)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, section 57-5-104(a).

8-208. 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. It shall be unlawful for any beer permit holder to engage in any type or phase of the beer business not expressly authorized by the permit. It shall likewise be unlawful for the permit holder to not comply with any and all express restrictions or conditions which may be written into his permit by the beer board. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

8-209. Classes of consumption permits. Permits issued by the beer board shall consist of three classes:

(1) Class 1 On Premises Permit. A Class 1 On Premises Permit shall be issued for the consumption of beer only on the premises. To qualify for a Class 1 On Premises permit, an establishment must, in addition to meeting the other regulations and restrictions in this chapter:

- (a) be primarily a restaurant or an eating place; and
- (b) be able to seat a minimum of thirty people, including children, in booths and at tables, in addition to any other seating it may have; and
- (c) have all seating in the interior of the building under a permanent roof; and
- (d) have been in continual operation for a period of six (6) months at the location for which the permit is requested.

In addition, the monthly beer sales of any establishment which holds a Class 1 On premises Permit shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the gross sales of the establishment. Any such establishment which for two consecutive months or for any three months in any calendar year has beer sales exceeding fifty percent (50%) of its gross sales, shall have its beer permit revoked.

(2) Class 2 Off Premises Permit. An off premises permit shall be issued for the consumption of beer only off the premises. To qualify for an off premises permit, an establishment must, in addition to meeting the other regulations and in this chapter:

- (a) be a grocery store or a convenience type market; and
- (b) in either case, be primarily engaged in the sale of grocery and personal and home care and cleaning articles, but may also sell gasoline; and
- (c) have been in continuous operation for a period of six (6) months at the location for which the permit is requested.

In addition, the monthly beer sales of any establishment which holds an off premises permit shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross sales of the establishment. Any establishment which for two consecutive months or

for three months in any calendar year has beer sales exceeding twenty-five percent (25%) of its gross sales, shall have its beer permit revoked. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991, as amended by Ord. #92-3, ____)

8-210. Limitation on number of permits. There shall be no limit on the number of Class 1 On Premises Permits and Class 2 Off Premises Permits. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991, as amended by Ord. #92-3, ____)

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 hospitals, schools, churches, 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 by Class 1 On Premises Permit holders or Class 2 Off Premises Permit holders within two hundred fifty (250) feet of any hospital, school, church. The distances shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest corner of the building from which the beer will be sold, to the nearest corner of the church, hospital or school building. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991, as amended by Ord. #92-3, ____)

8-212. 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 drug, or any crime involving moral turpitude within the past ten (10) years. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

8-213. Prohibited conduct or activities by beer permit holders. It shall be unlawful for any beer permit holder to:

- (1) Employ any person convicted for the possession, sale, manufacture, or transportation of intoxicating liquor, or any crime involving moral turpitude within the past ten (10) years.
- (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.
- (3) Allow any loud, unusual, or obnoxious noises to emanate from his premises.
- (4) Make or allow any sale of beer to a person under twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (5) Allow any person 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 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 gambling on his premises.

(10) Allow dancing on his premises.

(11) Allow pool or billiard playing in the same room where beer is sold and/or consumed.

(12) For Class 1 On Premises permit holders to fail to provide and maintain separate sanitary toilet facilities for men and women.

(13) It shall be unlawful for any permit holder to employ any person under the age of eighteen (18) on the premises in any capacity directly related to the selling or serving of beer. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991, as amended by Ord. #92-3, ____; and further amended by Ord. #96-9, § 1, Jan. 1997)

8-214. Suspension and revocation of beer permits. The beer board shall have the power to suspend or 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 suspended or revoked until a public hearing is held by the board after reasonable notice to all the known parties in interest. Suspension or revocation proceedings may be initiated by the police chief or by any member of the beer board. (Ord. #91-1, June 1991)

8-215. Privilege tax. There is hereby imposed on the business of selling, distributing, storing or manufacturing beer an annual privilege tax of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). 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 Rockford, 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. (as added by ord. No. 93-3)

8-216. Civil penalty in lieu of suspension. The beer board may, at the time it imposes a revocation or suspension, offer a permit holder the alternative of paying a civil penalty not to exceed \$1500.00 for each offense of making or permitting to be made any sales to minors or, a civil penalty not to exceed \$1000.00 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

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civil penalty is paid within that time, the revocation or suspension shall be deemed withdrawn. (as added by ord. No. 93-3)