

New License Privileges & Fee Reductions for Iowa Class C Liquor License Holders

A significant alcohol license reform bill, which included several top priorities of the Iowa Restaurant Association, passed at the end of the 2022 state legislative session. SF 2374 consolidates the number of license types, reduces most licensing fees, and expands key privileges for Iowa's hospitality industry.

Purchase Limited Quantities of Beer and Canned Cocktails at Any Retailer

For several years the Iowa Restaurant Association has pushed for more equity in the purchase of beer and spirits for resale by on premise operators. While spirits were not addressed this session, meaningful reform on the purchase of beer and canned cocktails are included in the legislation. Beginning January 1, 2023, Class "C" liquor license holders will be able to purchase up to five cases of beer or canned cocktail for resale in their establishments. If need be, eligible product can be purchased at a local retailer (grocer, box store, c-store, etc.) once every 24 hours. For those experiencing delivery schedule reductions and storage issues, the new legislation creates a convenient, legal way to meet customer demand between beer truck arrivals.

Sunday Sales included in all C Licenses

The new legislation also eliminates the additional fee and application for Sunday sale of alcohol. Effective January 1, 2023 Sunday sales are a standard privilege included with all class "C" retail alcohol licenses.

All Class C Licenses Should See Fee Decreases

SF 2374 also includes fee modifications for class "C" and other license classifications. In fact, all class "C" retail license holders will have a base fee reduction. In addition, some of the on-premise license holders currently in the middle fee tier will move down to the lowest fee tier, and some in the highest fee tier will move to the middle tier.

New fees for establishments located within the corporate limits of cities with populations of:

Less than 2,500	\$550
2,500- 15,000	\$900
More than 15,000	\$1,250

Commercial establishments outside the corporate limits of any city, will be charged a fee equal to that charged in the nearest incorporated city.

More Details

The Iowa ABD will conduct extensive educational outreach on all of the licensing, fee, and privilege updates. In the coming months, watch for more information directly to license holders from the Iowa ABD, as well as updates from the Iowa Restaurant Association.