



**SAVANNAH**  
Revenue Department

# 2019 Revenue Ordinance

As Adopted on December 6, 2018  
and Amended on April 25, 2019

## ARTICLE Y. BUSINESS TAX

### Section 30. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES

**(A) License & Permit Fees.** Not being covered by the provisions of O.C.G.A. §48-13-5 through §48-13-26, license and permit fees for alcoholic beverage establishments are levied pursuant to the Savannah Code, Part 6, Chapter 1, Article H, as follows:

LICENSE CLASS	APPLICANT CLASSIFICATION	DISTILLED SPIRITS	FEE	MALT BEVERAGE	FEE	WINE	FEE
A	Licensed Alcohol Caterer	1 (A1 is incompatible with Class E, F and G uses)	\$200*	2 (A2 is incompatible with Class E, F and G uses)	\$100*	3 (A3 is incompatible with Class E, F and G uses)	\$50*
B	Manufacturer (Brewer = B2)	1	\$5000**	2	\$5000**	3	\$5000**
C	Retail Dealer (on premises consumption)	1	\$3500	2	\$1500	3	\$600
D	Retail Package Dealer (off premises consumption)	1 (B1, C1 and D1 are incompatible uses)	\$3500	2 (C2 and D2 are incompatible uses)	\$1500	3	\$600
E	Ancillary Retail Package Dealer	X (ineligible use)	N/A	2	\$1500	3	\$600
F	Wholesaler	1	\$5000	2	\$2000	3	\$1500
G	Complimentary service	X (ineligible use)	N/A	2	\$300	3	\$200
H	Samples	X	N/A	2	\$200***	3	\$100***
J	Event Venues	1 (J1 is incompatible with all other uses)	\$3500	2 (J2 is incompatible with all other uses)	\$1500	3 (J3 is incompatible with all other uses)	\$600

\* This is in addition to the amount of the base license.

\*\* This includes the option of providing samples to those involved in a tour of the facility in accordance with GA State Law.

\*\*\* This is in addition to the amount of the base license (retail package dealer or ancillary retail package dealer)

**Additional Fee Amounts:**

Sunday Sales (Retail Dealer with on premises consumption having more than 50% food sales) - \$200 regardless of type(s) of alcoholic beverage

Underage Permit (Retail Dealers with on premises consumption having less than 50% food sales providing live entertainment as defined in the Ordinance) - \$1000 regardless of type(s) of alcoholic beverage

Home Brew Event – \$50 per event

Temporary Event - ~~\$25 per event~~ \$50/per day per permitted event

Bar Cards – \$25

Authorized Catered Function Permit - \$25 per event

Advertising - \$20

Sign Posting - \$10

**(B) Application for New License; Pro-rating of License Fee.** Any person wishing to manufacture, distribute, sell, dispense or offer to sell any alcoholic beverage shall apply for a license, meet all licensing requirements, including regulatory requirements, and be issued a license by the City before commencing business. Application for a new business tax certificate and payment therefore shall be made to the City Revenue Department on application forms provided by said department.

A new license applied for after January 1 may be pro-rated by month; provided, however, that no alcoholic beverage license fee shall be pro-rated to less than one-quarter of the annual fee; and provided, further, that the license fee shall not be pro-rated for any business which held an alcoholic beverage license during the previous year, whether used continuously or part of the year. Sunday Sales Permit fees and Underage Permit fees shall not be prorated.

**(C) Duration of License.** Each alcoholic beverage license issued under this ordinance shall be for the calendar year, or the remaining portion thereof, and shall expire on December 31 of the year of issuance.

**(D) Renewal of License.** Each alcoholic beverage dealer who was licensed to engage in business within the City in the previous year and continues to transact or offer to transact such business in the current year shall pay for and renew such license by January 31 of the current license year. The Revenue Department is authorized to require that the business tax renewal be submitted along with the annual alcohol renewal application as a condition of licensing.

**(E) Penalty for Delinquency.** Any person manufacturing, distributing, selling, dispensing or offering to sell any alcoholic beverage who does not renew his or her license by the due date required by this ordinance shall be subject to a delinquency fee of the greater of \$50.00 or 25 percent of the amount due, plus other penalties as may be imposed by the Recorders Court of Chatham County-Savannah. Any such person shall stop dispensing alcoholic beverages as of midnight on January 31. Any license not renewed and paid in full by February 15th will be declared to be inactive and a license shall not be issued to that same entity at that location until the delinquency fees have been paid and a new license application with all fees and necessary documentation is submitted and approved by City Council.

~~**(F) Alcoholic Beverage Permit for Temporary Event.** Upon application to the Revenue Department and payment of an application fee as provided by this section, the City Manager shall be authorized to waive all or any portion of license fees for temporary dispensing of alcoholic beverages and to approve issuing a permit under the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Any temporary event for which dispensing of alcoholic beverages is requested must be:~~

~~(a) Sponsored by a private non-profit organization as classified by the U. S. Internal Revenue Service, and no less than 80% of the proceeds of the event must benefit the sponsoring non-profit organization, OR;~~

~~(b) A closed private event to which the general public is not admitted (even under any advance ticket sales arrangement); during which alcoholic beverages shall not be dispensed to the general public; and all alcohol dispensed is free of any charge with no implied or actual monetary exchange.~~

~~(2) If such temporary event is to be held in a City park or square, the applicant must secure in advance a permit for use of the park or square from the Office of Special Events, Film, and Tourism, must meet all requirements of the Office of Special Events, Film, and Tourism, and must provide the Revenue Department with a copy of the park or square use permit issued by the Office of Special Events, Film, and Tourism.~~

~~(3) No such event shall exceed three (3) days, including Sunday, for which the City Manager shall have authority to waive normal Sunday regulations if circumstances warrant such waiver.~~

~~(4) No temporary permit is required for owner sponsored events held in or on the owned premises to which the general public is not invited.~~

**(F) Alcoholic Beverage Permit for Temporary Events** Temporary events requesting permitting of alcoholic beverages must meet the requirements of City Code Section 6-1223, as amended.

~~**(G) Transfer of Alcoholic Beverage License.** An alcoholic beverage license may, upon approval of the Mayor and Aldermen, be transferred in *ownership* if the transferee is the bona fide successor at the same business location of the transferor, if all~~

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~~indebtedness due on said license by the transferor is fully paid, and if all other requirements and obligations have been met.~~

~~— An alcoholic beverage license may, upon approval of the Mayor and Aldermen, be transferred from one location to another, and the license will be valid at the new location if the new location conforms to all zoning, building code, and other regulations of the City, and if all indebtedness due on said license is fully paid. Application for transfer of business location must be approved and new license issued before the business is moved.~~

~~**(H) Alcoholic Beverage License Application and Transfer Fees.** Each applicant for a new license and each applicant to transfer an alcoholic beverage license, whether ownership or location, shall pay a fee according to the following schedule:~~

<del>Type</del>	<del>Fee</del>
<del>Liquor (per each license class)</del>	<del>\$300</del>
<del>Malt Beverage (per each license class)</del>	<del>\$150</del>
<del>Wine (per each license class)</del>	<del>\$150</del>

~~— In any case where a license holder is not directly involved in the business or where another person who has been identified as the responsible person on the license application is found to be unavailable and/or uninvolved in the business, and timely transfer of the license has not been initiated, there shall be a 100% transfer penalty added to the fees charged under the above schedule. Timely initiation of transfer is considered to be within 15 days of the date on which the license holder or responsible party becomes unavailable or uninvolved in the business.~~

~~— Application and transfer fees shall be paid cumulatively at the time application is submitted. After application for new license or transfer has been submitted, application or transfer fee shall not be refundable in any portion, even if the license is not issued or transferred. The applicant for transfer of an alcoholic beverage license shall submit with the application and transfer fee the original business license document.~~

**(I) Refund of License Fees.** In any case when an alcoholic beverage license fee has been paid and a business has transacted or offered to transact commercial activities and then voluntarily terminates such activities, a portion of the license fee may be refunded, pro-rated by month, upon request of the business; provided, however, that no such refund shall exceed three-quarters of the annual license fee; and provided, further, that no refund shall be granted to any business which took out a license in the current or previous year and did not operate continuously as an alcoholic beverage establishment during that year.

In any case where an alcoholic beverage license fee has been paid and license issued, but the business does not open to the public nor offer to transact business within the City, refund of 90% of the annual license fee may be granted upon request of the license holder. If the license fee has been paid and the applicant requests termination of

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the application process and refund of fees before the license has been issued, 100% of the license fee may be refunded. No portion of application fees is refundable.

**(J) Suspension and Revocation.** No alcoholic beverage license issued under this ordinance shall be subject to revocation by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah unless or until the licensee has been notified of the intention to revoke the same and said licensee has been afforded an opportunity to be heard as to the proposed grounds for revocation; provided, however, that the provisions of the Savannah Code, Section 6-1207, shall apply.