



# ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

City of Savannah  
January 2023

# Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance Proposed Amendments

❖ **Distilled Spirits with Takeout Meals:** Section 6- Code Section 6-1213 ( c) 1-7

❖ **Alcoholic Beverage Tastings:** Section 7 - Code Section 6-1209 (t) 1-5

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❖ **Armed Security Guards:** Section 9 – Code Section 6-1209 (v) (1 a-c) (2) (3)

❖ **Alcohol License Waiting Periods:** Section 3- Code section 6-1207 (b) (11) Section 4- Code Section 6-1207 (e) (1)(2)

❖ **Transitional Permit (Class K ):** Section 10- Code Section 6-1209 (w) ( 1-4) and Section 2 (6-1205 (a) and (c )

❖ **Sever Training Permit Card:** Section 13- Code Section 6-1215 (a)

# Distilled Spirits Take-Out w/ Meal

## O.C.G.A § 3-3-11

### *Proposed Local Ordinance: Section 6- Code Section 6-1213 ( c) 1-7*

#### **Purpose**

- Permit Retail Consumption Dealers (Restaurants with on-premises licenses) to sell distilled spirits for off-premises consumption in approved containers with the purchase of a meal.
- **Examples of approved containers:**
  - Licensee must brand each approved container with current licensed establishment name
  - The container must be durable, leakproof, and sealable.
  - Containers shall be sealed in such a way to prevent reopening without visible evidence that the seal was removed or broken.
  - The container shall be sealed with a tamper-evident secure cap or lid. The cap or lid shall not have sipping holes or holes designed for straws
  - Container with a snap on cap that has a tail band or security ring (similar to a gallon of milk).
  - Screw caps/tops that break the link when unscrewed (similar to the cap on a 2 liter of soda or a water bottle).
  - Cork or plug with a foil heat seal (similar to a wine bottle).
  - Crown capped glass bottles (similar to a beer bottle).
  - Container with a shrink band or shrink wrap seal over the screw cap.
  - Heat-sealed closures over sealed caps.
  - Take out drink carrier bag with a permanent closure adhesive or permanent heat-sealed strip



**Distilled Spirits Take-Out w/ Meal**  
State Law: O.C.G.A § 3-3-11  
Proposed Local Ordinance:  
**Section 6- Code Section 6-1213 ( c) 1-7**

**Examples of Non- approved containers:**

- Containers with a cap or lid that provides no visible evidence when it has been opened and/or breached.
- Containers containing tamper-evident tape without a tamper-evident cap or lid.
- Containers with induction seals without a tamper-evident cap or lid.
- Containers with straws, drink holes, or other openings.
- Containers with flip top lids or caps with or without a seal liner.



# Alcoholic Beverage Tastings

O.C.G.A § 3-15-2

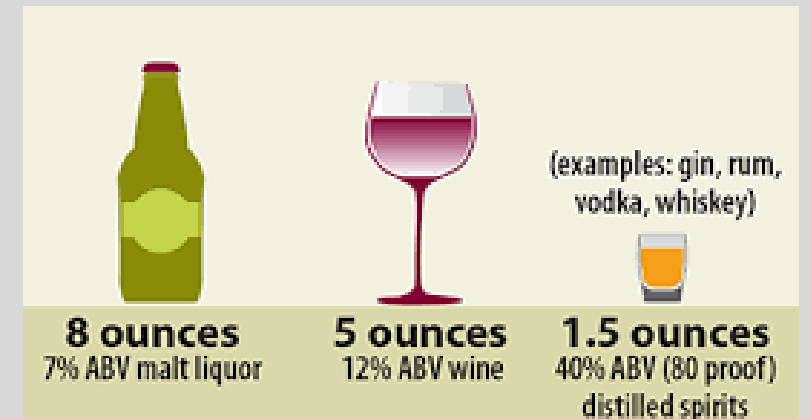
## Section 7 - Code Section 6-1209 (t) 1-5

### Purpose

Permit Class D (Retail Package Stores) and Class E (Convenience, Grocery Stores) to provide tasting events of distilled spirits, malt beverages and wine. This code section will repeal and replace Class H (Samples), in the current ABO.

#### All tasting events must abide by the following:

- Must receive a permit from the City's Revenue Department 14 days prior to event
- New charge of \$50.00 per event
- Maximum size per sample is 8 oz of malt beverage, 5 oz of wine and 1.5 oz of distilled spirits
- Only conduct 52 tastings per calendar year with 14-day prior notification to the City's Revenue Department
- May last only 4 hours
- May only serve one type of alcoholic beverage, either malt beverage, wine, or distilled spirits. However, more than one brand of each type of alcoholic beverage may be offered, so long as no more than four packages are open at one time
- Not permitted in the Alcohol Density Overlay Districts



## Packaged Alcohol Home Delivery

O.C.G.A § 3-3-10

Recent changes to State Law authorize the home delivery of alcoholic beverages by Class D and E license holders. This Local Ordinance Amendment would prohibit the home delivery of alcohol within the City of Savannah.

# Bring Your Own Bottle “BYOB”

## Section 8 – Code Section 1209 (u)(1) (2)

### Purpose

Clarify that customers are only allowed to bring and consume their own alcoholic beverage at an establishment if that establishment already has a consumption on premises alcoholic beverage license.



# Selling, Serving or Dispensing Alcoholic Beverages Through Windows or Doors Section 5- Code Section 6-1212 (c)

## Purpose

With the exception of Class D ( Package stores) license holders, no licensee may sell or permit the sale or dispensation of alcoholic beverages through windows, doors, or other openings to sidewalks, parking lots, or to any other area outside the licensed premises, excluding approved adjacent patios.

\*The City's Festival Ordinance shall pre-empt the above restrictions in some instances.





# Alcohol Beverage Compliance (ABC) Unit Administrative Meetings Section 11- Code Section 6-1210 (d) (1-5)

## Purpose

Require a license holder to attend a scheduled ABC administrative meeting after a violation occurs.

## Definition

- An Administrative Meeting is held to establish a corrective action plan with the Licensee and/or Responsible Party to seek compliance with the alcoholic beverage ordinance. The Administrative Meeting has no bearing on court proceedings, however attendance from the Licensee and/or Responsible Party is mandatory.
- Failure to attend Administrative Meetings will result in subpoena issued to licensee or responsible party to appear in Recorder's Court and/or Show Cause Hearing.

# Alcohol Review Committee

## Section 12- Code Section 6-1205 (d) (1) (2)

### Purpose

- Establish Alcohol Review Committee (ARC) to collaborate with City staff and outside agencies involved in the alcohol licensure process to improve efficiency of the application process.
- Ensure all regulatory requirements are met prior to consideration by City Council.

### Proposed Committee Representatives

- ❖ ABC Unit
- ❖ Code Compliance
- ❖ Clerk of Council
- ❖ City Manager's Administrative Office
- ❖ State Departments of Public Health & Agriculture
- ❖ City of Savannah Department of Revenue
- ❖ Human Services
- ❖ Planning, Zoning and Urban Design
- ❖ Development Services
- ❖ Special Events, Film, and Tourism

# Armed Security Guards

## Section 9 – Code Section 6-1209 (v) (1 a-c) (2) (3)

### Purpose

- Require all armed security guards working either directly for the alcohol establishment or contracted by the establishment to complete a background check through the SPD.
- All private armed security businesses that furnish security services to establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages shall conduct a complete and thorough background investigation of all employees carrying weapons. For each such employee, the private security company shall maintain a copy of the background investigation, which shall be furnished to any representative of the SPD upon demand.
- Licensee must inform the ABC Staff in writing within 30 days if any armed security guards of the licensee or establishment is convicted of a felony or any crime involving the illegal use, carrying, or possession of a dangerous weapon or any crime involving moral turpitude.

# Alcohol License Waiting Periods

## Section 3- Code Section 6-1207 (b)(11)

## Section 4- Code Section 6-1207 (e) (1 a-b)(2)

### **Waiting Periods (Revocation) Proposed Revisions:**

- When any license is revoked as provided under this article, no further license shall be issued to such license holder for a period of 24 months from the date of revocation.
- Upon two license revocations for a specific premises within a 24-month period, no further license shall be issued for the subject premises to any person, firm, or corporation at such location for a period of six months from the date of the most recent revocation.

### **Waiting periods (Denials) Proposed New Language:**

- When a license is denied by the Mayor and Aldermen pursuant to the provisions of this Article, no license shall be issued to such ABL Applicant or Responsible ABL Applicant for the premises subject to the ABL denied application for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of denial.

### **Waiting Periods (Surrender) Repeal and Replace Language:**

- For occasions on which the applicant, manager, or any person with a financial interest in the establishment has voluntarily surrendered an alcoholic beverage license issued by the city, no license shall be issued to such person at subject location for a period of twelve (12) months immediately following the surrender. Licensees may surrender 14 days prior to revocation proceedings.

# Transitional Permit

## Class K-

### Section 10- Code Section 6-1209 (w) ( 1-4)

#### Purpose

Establish requirements for alcohol-serving establishments that functionally transition from restaurants to bars, including ceasing food sales or charging entry fees, primarily late at night.

#### The Transitional Permit will require:

- No one under 21 years of age allowed on premise during transitional hours.
- Only current ABL/Responsible ABL applicants can apply for Transitional Permit
- Additional Public Safety Plan must be turned into the SPD's Alcohol Beverage Compliance (ABC) unit at the time of permit request

# Next Steps & Questions

## **Public Information Sessions /Meetings Held:**

- ❖ 1st Public Feedback Session – Oct 5, 2022
- ❖ City Council Workshop: October 27, 2022
- ❖ 2nd Public Feedback Session – Nov 28, 2022
- ❖ City Council Members meetings were held from November 28, 2022- December 15, 2022

## **Next Steps:**

- ❖ First and Second Reading: Jan 26,2023
- ❖ City Of Savannah Employees Information Session: Feb- March 2023
- ❖ Stakeholder Information Sessions: Feb – March 2023
- ❖ Effective: April 1, 2023
- ❖ 90-Day Grace Period-(enforcement begins)- July 1, 2023

## **More Information:**

- [alcohol@savannahga.gov](mailto:alcohol@savannahga.gov)
- [www.savannahga.gov/alcohol](http://www.savannahga.gov/alcohol)