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Illinois Liquor Control Commission
COVID-19 Related Action
Guidance to Local Liquor Control Commissions for On-Premises Only Retailers
March 19, 2020

On March 16, 2020, as a result of Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-07, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission issued guidance on whether a license holder authorized to conduct on-premises alcoholic liquor sales only (“On-Premises Only Retailers) may sell alcoholic liquor for consumption off of the licensed premises (Sales may also be referred to as “Packaged Sales” or “To Go Sales”). The Statements are as follows:

From Illinois Liquor Control Commission Q/A

Q. Can an on-premises ONLY liquor license holder sell for off premise consumption and deliver alcohol?

A. Only those license holders that are currently authorized for off-premise sales may continue to conduct such sales.

From Illinois Liquor Control Commission Compliance Directive

All license holders authorized by the State Commission and local liquor control commissions to sell alcoholic liquor, non-alcoholic liquor and food at retail for consumption off the licensed premises may conduct “in-person” sales on a “to-go” basis only but not for the consumption on the licensed premises. License holders that normally have this privilege include: Combined (on/off consumption) retailers, off-premises only retailers, brew pubs, distilling pubs, brewers, class 1 brewers, class 2 brewers, class 1 craft distillers, and class 2 craft distillers.

The intention of the Q/A and Compliance Directive is to honor the on-premises/off-premises restrictions placed on retail license holders by the local liquor control commissions rather than summarily override such restrictions.

Consistent with prior law and policy, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission continues to defer to the local liquor control commission authority on determining whether a business licensed to sell alcoholic liquor may sell alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption.

Therefore, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission will accept the decision of a local liquor control commission to authorize an On-Premises Only Retailer to sell alcoholic liquor for consumption off the licensed premises. State retail licenses that authorize on-premises only sales will be authorized to sell alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption if such sales are authorized by the local liquor control commission.

On-Premises Only Retailer “to go” or delivery privileges remain effective until the termination of a health emergency by State officials. License holders will be strictly held to their license on-premises only privilege once the health emergency is lifted.

Retailers selling alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption shall abide by all laws, rules and policies established by Executive Order 2020-07, the Illinois Liquor Control Act, Illinois Liquor Control Commission Rules and local ordinance and policy that apply to packaged sales or “to go” sales.

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