



News Release

Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission
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OLCC implements legislative changes, modernizes regulations

Updates and business guidance now available

PORTLAND, OR – In response to action taken by the Oregon Legislature during its 2021 legislative session, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) is implementing changes to modernize the way Oregon regulates bars, restaurants, breweries, wineries and other alcohol licensed businesses. The adjustments in alcohol policy were in response to the impacts industry has felt from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well the 2020 Oregon Wildfires and the general need to make regulations reflect the realities of today’s consumer market.

One of the major legislative changes enabled bars and restaurants with Full-On Premises or Limited licenses to sell packaged beer, wine and cider to go. Previously, Limited and Full-On Premises licensees were required to obtain an Off-premises license to sell bottles or six packs to go. Other significant changes included refreshing the definition of malt beverage in Oregon to align it with the federal definition, permanently allowing restaurants and bars with Full On-Premises licenses to sell cocktails to go, elimination of the “keg” tag requirement for consumer keg sales, and increased flexibility for Oregon nonprofit organizations that want to conduct special events involving alcohol.

In an effort to help increase awareness and what those changes mean for businesses, the OLCC has developed additional resources for licensees to understand how they may take full advantage of these opportunities. Many of the modernization changes have already been implemented, with the remainder to take effect in 2022. The following is a short list of legislative changes, and [a more detailed information bulletin can be found here.](#)

2021 Changes for alcohol licensees

Updates for all alcohol businesses:

- [OLCC name change: Cannabis replaces Control](#)
- [Canadian driver license and province ID cards added to list of acceptable IDs.](#)
- Counties in the State of Oregon may now hold a liquor license.

Updates for bars and restaurants:

- [Retail license consolidation.](#)
- [Additional retail licensees may now sell “kegs” to consumers.](#)

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- [Cocktails to go made permanent in Oregon.](#)

Updates for Manufacturers and Wholesale licensees; Direct Shipper Permittees

- [Most hard seltzers now qualify as “malt beverage” in Oregon.](#)
- [Wine delivery to consumers volume increase.](#)
- [Manufacturer or wholesaler to retailer equipment leases.](#)
- [Keg-tag requirement eliminated.](#)

Updates for Special Events

[See the OLCC’s special events webpage](#) for updated special event applications and the temporary sales license and exempt events guide addressing things like:

- Unlicensed (Exempt) Charitable Events.
- Nonprofit organizations interested in conducting an event with multiple locations under a temporary sales license.
- Alcohol deliveries by temporary sales licensees.

Changes for alcohol licensees starting January 1, 2022

Upcoming changes in 2022 for all alcohol licensees:

- Applicants for *any* new license will be eligible for a temporary authority to operate AND the timeframe for the authority doubled.
- Alcohol service permittees to become mandatory reporters for suspected sex trafficking.

Upcoming coming changes for Manufacturers and Wholesale licensees:

- Alcohol by volume (ABV) increases for privilege tax classification. “Cider” can be fortified with distilled liquor.

The OLCC will provide additional details about these changes in the next couple of months. To receive those updates and others please check the Alcohol Program of the OLCC website or register to receive updates from the OLCC GovDelivery email service.

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