

Staff Report

O-29-16

Alcoholic Beverages - Refillable Container License

This legislation amends the City Code to add Class E license holders to those Classes already permitted to sell draft beer in refillable containers (Growlers).

Recently, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 649 - Alcoholic Beverages - Refillable Container Permit for Draft Beer, which authorizes the Annapolis City Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to issue a refillable container permit for draft beer to the holder of a Class E license. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

The City's Class E licenses are issued to hotels and authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages. The refillable container permit entitles the holder to sell draft beer for consumption off the licensed premises in a refillable container with a capacity of not less than 32 ounces and not more than 128 ounces. An applicant must complete the form that the board provides and pay an annual license fee of \$50 if the applicant already has an off-sale privilege or \$500 if the applicant does not already have that privilege.

In accordance with State law, the City Code requires that refillable containers must:

1. be sealable;
2. be branded with an identifying mark of a license holder;
3. bear the federal health warning statement;
4. display instructions for cleaning the container; and
5. bear a label stating that:
 - (a) cleaning the container is the responsibility of the consumer; and that
 - (b) the contents of the container are perishable and should be refrigerated immediately and consumed within 48 hours after purchase.

There were 6 Class E licenses issued for use in the City of Annapolis in 2015 and two of these licenses have off-sale privileges.

Prepared by Jacqueline Lee, Legislative & Policy Analyst, Office of Law.