

Guide to Proposed Amendments to Alcohol Code

1. Establishes an effective date of January 1, 2019, for the enacting ordinance.
2. Updated definitions to address ambiguities in the Code, and address certain types of alcohol sales or uses that raise concerns with the Sheriff's Office or Department of Business Development Services to be occurring in Macon-Bibb County. Affected sections: 4-1; 4-23 through 4-27; 4-35 through 4-37; 4-40; 4-217; 4-314; 4-315
3. Amended to promote uniformity in capitalization and formatting of section titles and cross-references (i.e., capitalizing "Chapter" throughout when referring to a particular chapter of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances). Affected Sections: Throughout document.
4. Implemented a step-increase for alcohol license and application fees. No increase for 2019 licenses applied for or renewed in 2018; licenses obtained or renewed in CY19 will have a fee that is roughly halfway between the current fee and the state average fee. Starting in CY20, license fees will roughly match state average fees. Codified license fees to provide clarity and organize types of licenses in a single code section. Affected Sections: 4-22; 4-23; 4-143; 4-215; 4-313; 4-317; 7-1
5. Modified Code to increase Commission flexibility for consideration of licenses. Affected sections: 4-23(b)
6. Modified agent requirement so that all applications are filed in the name of an individual; required agents to have some connection to the business for which the license is being sought, instead of merely being Macon-Bibb County residents. 4-23(b); 4-24
7. Waived application fee for catering, special event, wine-tasting, Sunday sales, home brew special event, temporary license, and handler's permits. 4-23(b)(4)
8. Prorated license fees so that new licensees are only charged for the complete calendar months remaining in the year at the time they apply. 4-23(b)(5)
9. Modified information required with application to include a more-detailed disclosure of ownership information and clarifying who must be fingerprinted and complete a background check as part of the application. 4-23(d)
10. Modified Code to reflect recent developments in Georgia law. Affected sections: 4-22(c); 4-125; 4-127; 4-128; 4-300
11. Modified Code to provide clear procedures for administrative appeals from residents that are issued adverse decisions on licenses or license applications. Affected sections: 4-52 through 55 repealed;
12. Modified Code to align effective dates of licenses with state law providing for licenses based on each calendar year, beginning with CY2019 licenses. CY18 License holders will still have until April 1, 2019, to renew their license. Affected sections: 4-56; 4-218 repealed;

13. Modified Code to remove reference to suspending licenses. Affected sections: Throughout Document.
14. Modified Code to allow for the issuance of temporary licenses while license applications are pending; to allow for the continuation of licenses that are timely filed but remain pending after the ordinary expiration date, and to generally provide for greater access to licenses by qualified applicants and licensees. Affected sections: 4-56; 4-58
15. Modified Code to specify that Golf Pro at Bowden Golf Club could apply for and receive licensure as concessionaire of Bowden. Affected sections: 4-59.
16. Modified distance measuring mechanism for distance proscriptions to remove ambiguity, and to include reference to State law, where appropriate. Incorporated state “grandfathering” provision for holders of and applicants for beer and wine licenses near certain uses. Affected sections: 4-97; 4-122; 4-142
17. Modified Code to prohibit operations of a business licensed to sell alcohol by the drink between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 AM on any day, and to prohibit special event permit holders from selling alcohol after 2:00 A.M.. Affected sections: 4-145; 16-15
18. Implements a 3% excise tax on the sale of beverages containing distilled spirits at retail for consumption on premises. Tax will be collected and managed by the Macon-Bibb County Finance Department. Affected Sections: 4-162 through 4-173
19. Modified rules for brown bagging to authorize businesses to obtain brown bagging permits, for a reduced fee, regardless of whether they hold any other alcohol licenses, so long as they otherwise comply with the requirements for obtaining a license for consumption on premises of those types of drinks they wish to permit. Affected sections: 4-312.
20. Modified Code to define the premises area for Luther Williams Field to include the nearby softball fields, so as to allow for the sale of alcoholic beverages at Luther Williams Field for carrying over to softball fields during tournaments. Affected sections: 4-313
21. Modified Code to provide for procedures for how license applications are considered, for administrative appeals, to provide greater flexibility to the County and Sheriff’s Department in crafting remedies that better serve the community. Affected sections: 4-400 through 4-412.
22. Modified Code to provide for an “Alcohol Handler’s” permit, effective April 1, 2019, for all bartenders at licensees for alcoholic beverages by the drink, except for restaurants and hotels, and for all managers thereof, and all owners and agents of all retail alcohol licensees. The background check requirement found in a previous version of this Article has been removed, leaving only the training and registration requirements. Affected sections: 4-500 through 4-507.
23. Modified the definition of a “dive” in Chapter 16 of the Code to include the service of consumption of alcoholic beverages outside of legal hours of service, except within private residences. Affected sections: 16-15.