

Memorandum

To: Applicants for Grocery Store Wine Permits and Arkansas Wholesalers

From: Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control

Date: September 25, 2017

Re: Implementation of Grocery Store Wine Permits (Act 508 of 2017)

Qualifying Arkansas retailers may apply for a grocery store wine permit beginning October 2, 2017. The ABC expects to receive a significant number of applications within the first few weeks of availability; therefore, the following measures will be in place to assist applicants, retailers, wholesalers, and the agency to effectively and efficiently implement this new permit.

Application Availability

Applications for grocery store wine permits are now available; however, they will not be accepted by the agency until Monday, October 2, 2017. The applications have been created so that they may be emailed to applicants and successfully photocopied. To obtain an application, go to the Arkansas ABC website or contact the ABC at 501-682-1105. Completed applications must be delivered or mailed to the ABC.

Application Process

Under certain circumstances, retailers that currently hold Arkansas small farm wine retail permits will be able to forego some of the typical application requirements, such as posting and publication of notice. Applicants should refer to the application instructions to determine which components of the application will be required of them.

Ordering and Delivery of Inventory

The start date of wine in grocery stores and the months that follow coincide with the most active months of the year for both wholesalers and retailers. To ensure that existing retailers do not experience interruptions in service and that wholesalers are able to meet the demand created by the issuance of this new permit type, the following measures will be in place from October 2, 2017 until December 30, 2017.

- Hours of delivery will be extended by one hour, six days per week. Wholesalers may deliver to retailers from 4 a.m. until 1 a.m., Monday through Friday, and from 4 a.m. until midnight on Saturday.
- Applicants currently holding small farm wine retail permits may request the ability to receive delivery of grocery store wine prior to the issuance of a permit. The request form will be provided with the application packet. Only those applicants/permittees that have requested and received permission from ABC may receive early delivery. Those applicants receiving early delivery must strictly adhere to the guidelines set forth by ABC. Products received shall not be sold until a permit is issued, and products shall be kept from public access and view. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the denial of the application for the grocery store wine permit.