

Restaurant Liquor License

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) has several licenses and permits that authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages. The Restaurant (R) Liquor License, allows for the sale of all alcoholic beverages and it also allows customers to take up to 192 fluid ounces of sealed beer from an establishment. All R Liquor Licenses require **400 square feet of service space and food and seating for at least 30 people.**



PROCEDURE:

In all Pennsylvania counties, the quota for R liquor licenses is one license per 3,000 people. This quota is determined during the census. Philadelphia County has met this quota and anyone seeking an R liquor license must obtain it through an auction or a license transfer.

Auction for a Liquor License

- The minimum bid for entering a liquor license auction is \$25,000. Details on upcoming auctions can be found [here](#).

Transfer of Liquor License

1. You can obtain a liquor license through the transfer of an existing license from a person currently owning a liquor license and/or operating a licensed establishment. This can occur if:
 - The ownership of a licensed establishment should change. In this event, the new owner must submit an application with the state to have the existing license transferred to them. Upon approval of the application by PLCB, the owner would be allowed to operate at the same premises.
 - The license-holding owner wishes to change the location (or county) of their establishment without a change in ownership. This type of transfer also requires an application to PLCB. The number of liquor licenses in a county is regulated by the “quota system.”
 - Both the owner of the license and location (or county) of the establishment will change. This type of transfer requires an application to PLCB.



REVIEW TIME: Period depends on necessary investigation by the PLCB. If you have an existing liquor license, the process generally goes quickly as a background check has already been conducted by the PLCB.



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COST: Application costs range from \$125 to \$700 depending on the type of license and the population of the municipality.

In an auction, the minimum bid for a license is \$25,000.

Cost can be negotiated with a license owner during a liquor license transfer. The license transfer fee is \$550 for place to place, \$650 for person to person and \$700 for a change of person and place.



Additional information on R Liquor Licenses can be found in [PLCB's Guide on Protesting Alcoholic Beverage Licenses](#) and in [Converting Es to Rs](#).