

Article B: Operator's License

Sec. 7-2-30 Operator's License Required.

- (a) **Operator's Licenses; Class "A" or Class "B" Premises.** Except as provided under Sec. 125.32(3)(b) and Sec. 125.07(3)(a)10, Wis. Stats., no premises operated under a Class "A", Class "B", or "Class C" license or permit may be open for business unless there is upon the premises the licensee or permittee, the agent named in the license or permit if the licensee or permittee is a corporation, or some person who has an operator's license and who is responsible for the acts of all persons serving any fermented malt beverages to customers. An operator's license issued in respect to a vessel under Sec. 125.27(2), Wis. Stats., is valid outside the municipality that issues it. For the purpose of this Section, any person holding a manager's license under Sec. 125.18, Wis. Stats., or any member of the licensee's or permittee's immediate family who has attained the age of eighteen (18), shall be considered the holder of an operator's license. No person, including a member of the licensee's or permittee's immediate family, other than the licensee, permittee or agent, may serve fermented malt beverages in any place operated under a Class "A", Class "B", or "Class C" license or permit unless he or she has an operator's license or is at least eighteen (18) years of age and is under the immediate supervision of the licensee, permittee, agent or a person holding an operator's license, who is on the premises at the time of the service and in a position of immediate supervision.
- (b) **Use by Another Prohibited.**
- (1) No person may allow another to use his or her Class "A" or Class "B" license or permit to sell alcohol beverages.
 - (2) The license or permit of a person who violates Subsection (b)(1) above shall be revoked.

State Law Reference: Secs. 125.17 and 125.32, Wis. Stats.

Sec. 7-2-31 Procedure Upon Application.

- (a) The Common Council may issue an operator's license, which license shall be granted only upon application in writing on forms to be obtained from the City Clerk-Treasurer only to persons eighteen (18) years of age or older. Operator's licenses shall be operative only within the limits of the City.
- (b) All applications are subject to an investigation by the Chief of Police and/or other appropriate authority to determine whether the applicant and/or premises to be licensed complies with all regulations, ordinances and laws applicable thereto. The Police

Department shall conduct an investigation of the applicant including, but not limited to, requesting information from the State, surrounding municipalities, and/or any community where the applicant has previously resided concerning the applicant's arrest and conviction record. Based upon such investigation, the Chief of Police shall recommend, in writing, to the Common Council approval or denial of the application. If the Chief of Police recommends denial, the Chief of Police shall provide, in writing, the reasons for such recommendation.

Sec. 7-2-32 Duration.

Licenses issued under the provisions of this Chapter shall be valid for a period of two (2) years and shall expire on the thirtieth (30th) day of June of each year succeeding the year in which it is issued.

Sec. 7-2-33 Operator's License Fee.

The fee for an operator's license shall be as provided in Section 1-3-1 of this Code of Ordinances.

Sec. 7-2-34 Issuance or Denial of Operator's License.

- (a) After the Common Council approves the granting of an operator's license, the City Clerk-Treasurer shall issue the license. Such licenses shall be issued and numbered in the order they are granted and shall give the applicant's name and address and the date of the expiration of such license.
- (b)
 - (1) If the application is denied by the Common Council, the City Clerk-Treasurer shall, in writing, inform the applicant of the denial, the reasons therefore, and of the opportunity to request a reconsideration of the application by the Common Council in a closed session. Such notice must be sent by registered mail to, or served upon, the applicant at least ten (10) days prior to the Council's reconsideration of the matter. At such reconsideration hearing, the applicant may present evidence and testimony as to why the license should be granted.
 - (2) If, upon reconsideration, the Board again denies the application, the City Clerk-Treasurer shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons therefore. An applicant who is denied any license upon reconsideration of the matter, may apply to Circuit Court pursuant to Sec. 125.12(2)(d), Wis. Stats., for review.
- (c)
 - (1) Consideration for the granting or denial of a license will be based on:
 - a. Arrest and conviction record of the applicant, subject to the limitations imposed by Secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats.;

- b. The financial responsibility of the applicant;
 - c. The appropriateness of the location and the premises where the licensed business is to be conducted; and
 - d. Generally, the applicant's fitness for the trust to be reposed.
- (2) If a licensee is convicted of an offense substantially related to the licensed activity, the Common Council may act to revoke or suspend the license.
- (d) An application may be denied based upon the applicant's arrest and conviction record if the applicant has been convicted of a felony (unless duly pardoned) or if the applicant has habitually been a law offender. For purposes of this licensing procedure, "habitually been a law offender" is generally considered to be an arrest or conviction of at least two (2) offenses which are substantially related to the licensed activity within the five (5) years immediately preceding the license application. Because a license is a privilege, the issuance of which is a right granted solely to the Common Council, the Common Council reserves the right to consider the severity, and facts and circumstances of the offense when making the determination to grant, deny or not renew a license. Further, the Common Council, at its discretion, may, based upon an arrest or conviction record of two (2) or more offenses which are substantially related to the licensed activity within the five (5) years immediately preceding, act to suspend such license for a period of one (1) year or more. In the event the application is denied, the fee shall be refunded.

Sec. 7-2-35 Training Course.

- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (b) below, the Common Council may not issue an operator's license unless the applicant has successfully completed a responsible beverage server training course at any location that is offered by a vocational, technical and adult education district and that conforms to curriculum guidelines specified by the board of vocational, technical and adult education or unless the applicant fulfills one of the following requirements:
- (1) The person is renewing an operator's license.
 - (2) Within the past two (2) years, the person held a Class "A", Class "B", "Class A", "Class B", or "Class C" license or permit or a manager's or operator's license.
 - (3) Within the past two (2) years, the person has completed such a training course.
- (b) The City Clerk may issue a provisional operator's license to a person who is enrolled in a training course under Subsection (a) above and shall revoke that license if the applicant fails successfully to complete the course in which he or she enrolls.
- (c) The Common Council may not require that applicants for operators' licenses undergo training in addition to that under Subsection (a), but may require applicants to purchase, at cost, materials that deal with relevant local subjects not covered in the course under Subsection (a).

NOTE: This Section shall take effect July 1, 1991.

Sec. 7-2-36 Display of License.

Each license issued under the provisions of this Chapter shall be posted on the premises whenever the operator dispenses beverages or be in his or her possession, or carry a license card.

Sec. 7-2-37 Revocation of Operator's License.

Violation of any of the terms or provisions of the State law or of this Chapter relating to operator's licenses by any person holding such operator's license shall be cause for revocation of the license.

Sec. 7-2-38 Designation of City Clerk to Issue Operator's Licenses.

Pursuant to Sec. 125.17, Wis. Stats., the City Clerk of the City of Washburn shall be designated as the municipal official authorized to issue operator's licenses with the same authority and following the same procedures as required by the Common Council for issuing such operator's licenses as prescribed in Title 7, Chapter 2, Sections 30-37, of this Code of Ordinances.

State Law Reference: Sec. 125.17, Wis. Stats.

Sec. 7-2-39 Reserved for Future Use.