

## Retail Liquor License Overview

Minnesota is relatively unusual among states in that almost all its retail liquor licenses are issued locally rather than by a state agency. This information brief describes the various types of retail licenses that are authorized by Minnesota law.

<b>License/ Permit</b>	<b>Issued To</b>	<b>For What</b>	<b>Issued by Whom</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Number (as of 6/06)</b>
<b>On-Sale and Combination Licenses</b>					
<i><b>Intoxicating liquor on-sale</b></i>	Hotels, restaurants, bars, lounges, bowling centers, theaters	On-premise consumption of distilled spirits, wine, strong beer	Cities Counties*	Set locally	2,844
<i><b>Intoxicating liquor Sunday on-sale</b></i>	Restaurants, hotels, clubs, and bowling centers with regular intoxicating liquor on-sale license	On-premise consumption of intoxicating liquor on Sundays	Cities and counties where Sunday liquor referendums have passed	Up to \$200	2,321 (included in on-sale total)
<i><b>2 a.m. permit</b></i>	Establishments with on-sale intoxicating liquor license	Sale of intoxicating liquor between 1:00-2:00 a.m.	Department of Public Safety (DPS)	\$200 to \$600, based on gross receipts from alcohol sales	963
* If approved by the Department of Public Safety					

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<b><i>Wine on-sale</i></b>	Restaurants seating at least 25 guests	On-premise consumption of wine in conjunction with sale of food; may also sell strong beer if at least 60% of gross receipts come from sale of meals	Cities* Counties*	Half of on-sale fee, up to \$2,000	805
<b><i>Club on-sale</i></b>	Clubs in existence for at least three years	Sale of intoxicating liquor to members and "bona-fide guests"	Cities* Counties*	\$300-\$3,000, depending on number of members	469
<b><i>3.2 beer on-sale</i></b>	No limits on types of establishments	On-premise consumption of 3.2 beer	Cities Counties	Set locally	915
<b><i>Brewpub</i></b>	Licensed restaurants with brewing facilities	Operation of restaurant with on-sale of beer brewed on premises; also off-sale in 64-oz. bottles	Cities, counties for restaurant operation; DPS for brewery operation	On-sale fee set locally; state brewery license \$500	15
<b><i>Bed &amp; breakfast</i></b>	Owner-occupied B&Bs with up to eight rooms, maximum of 20 guests	Service at no charge to guests of up to two glasses of wine per day	Registration required with DPS	No fee	111
<b><i>Common carrier license</i></b>	Common carriers (air, rail, water)	Sale of intoxicating liquor to passengers in places where meals are sold	DPS	Excursion boats on Lake Superior and St. Croix and Mississippi rivers: \$50 for 3.2 beer, \$200 for liquor; other fees not specified	30

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<b>On-Sale and Combination Licenses</b>					
<b><i>Combination licenses - intoxicating liquor</i></b>	Establishments eligible for on-sale and off-sale license	Sales of intoxicating liquor for on-premise and off-premise consumption	Cities under 10,000 (Counties may also issue in nonurban towns)	Not specified	1,168
<b><i>Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor</i></b>	Clubs and nonprofit organizations in existence for at least six years, political committees	Sale of intoxicating liquor for on-premise consumption at an event sponsored by licensee; valid for up to four consecutive days	Cities* Counties*	Set locally	2,062
<b><i>Consumption and display permits</i></b>	Clubs and "business establishments"	Allowing customers to bring own supply of liquor (set-ups); allowing customers to store own supply of liquor on premises (bottle club)	DPS (local approval required)	\$150 (city or county may impose additional fee up to \$300)	362
<b><i>Caterer's permit</i></b>	Restaurant with on-sale intoxicating liquor license	Sale of intoxicating liquor as part of meal service at a location other than the restaurant's licensed premises	DPS	\$200	208
<b><i>Combination licenses - 3.2 beer</i></b>	No limits on types of establishments	Sale of 3.2 beer both for on-premise and off-premise consumption	Cities Counties	Set locally	67
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<b>Off-Sale Licenses</b>					
<b><i>Intoxicating liquor off-sale</i></b>	Exclusive liquor stores Grocery stores (in 1 <sup>st</sup> class cities if licensed before 8/1/89) Drug stores (if licensed before 5/1/94)	Sale of intoxicating liquor for off-premise consumption; exclusive liquor stores may also sell tobacco, ice, soft drinks, mixes, food products containing alcohol	Cities (1 <sup>st</sup> class cities, one per 5,000 pop.; other cities, no limit)  Counties (in unorganized territory and urban towns)	City-issued: Maximums from \$100 to \$1,000 based on pop.  County-issued: maximum \$500	845

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<b>Off-Sale Licenses</b>					
<b>3.2 beer off-sale</b>	No limits on types of establishments	Off-premise consumption of 3.2 beer	Cities Counties	Up to \$500	881
<b>Wine auction - temporary</b>	No limits on types of establishments	Auctions of vintage wine (maximum 600 cases per auction) for up to three consecutive days	Cities* Counties*	Set locally	5
<b>Farm winery</b>	Farm producing wine made primarily from Minnesota ingredients	On- and off-sale and wholesale of wine produced on-premises, up to 50,000 gallons per year	DPS	\$50	22
<b>Farm winery - Distillery</b>	Pre-existing farm wineries	Production of up to 5,000 gallons of distilled spirits	DPS	\$500	0
<b>Other Licenses/Operations</b>					
<b>Municipal liquor stores</b>	On-sale or off-sale, or both	Sale of intoxicating liquor; on-sale stores may sell meals	Cities 10,000 and under (may continue to operate after exceeding 10,000)	No license issued; municipally owned and operated	252
<b>Tribal licenses</b>	Establishments eligible for on-sale or off-sale licenses	On-sales, off-sales, or both depending on type issued	Tribal governing bodies	Set locally	22
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For more information about liquor regulation, visit the commerce area of our web site, [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/issinfo/comm\\_ed.htm](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/issinfo/comm_ed.htm).