

TYPES OF ALCOHOL LICENSES



ALL-BUSINESS

Commonly referred to as a “liquor license,” this **allows businesses to serve and sell liquor, with or without food, from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.**

This is the most common license in bars and casinos. These licenses are regulated through a quota system that determines the availability of licenses that can be purchased through the state. The quota system is based on city and county populations. Businesses can sell their licenses to another establishment but must register the sale through the state.



BEER

This allows businesses to serve beer and, if an extra fee is paid for an amendment to the license, wine. If a license is issued before 1997, the holder can apply for the ability for gambling. Quota limitations do apply. In order to be considered for a wine amendment, the business must offer food, but the food does not need to be prepared on site and the customer is not required to eat. Popcorn or pretzels would qualify.



RESTAURANT BEER AND WINE

Commonly referred to as cabaret licenses, **this allows restaurants to serve beer and wine to patrons “who are intending to order food.”** The restaurant can serve beer and wine between 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The beer and wine may only be consumed on the premises, including an outdoor patio. Kegs are not allowed to be sold. Gaming machines are not allowed with this license.



BREWERY

Montana identifies three types of breweries: domestic nano breweries that produce less than 100 barrels per year; **microbreweries** that produce over 100 but less than 10,000 barrels; and **domestic breweries that produce over 10,000 barrels.** A brewery producing less than 60,000 barrels can provide samples. Nano breweries can offer free samples from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. and do not have a limit. Microbreweries can operate from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and cannot serve more than 48 oz. to one individual per day. Large domestic breweries can offer free samples from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.



DISTILLERY

A “micro-distillery” that produces 25,000 gallons or less of liquor can provide samples of distilled spirits that were made on premises with or without charge between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. No more than 2 oz. are permitted for a customer each day. A distillery that produces more than 25,000 gallons is not permitted to offer samples, nor is the business allowed to sell liquor for off-premises consumption. All products must be sold to the state for distribution through the state liquor agency stores.



DOMESTIC WINERY

A business that wants to produce, bottle, blend or distribute wine must be licensed through the state. The winery cannot distribute more than 4,500 cases per year to retailers. **A winery can provide samples on-site from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.** There is not a specific sample amount, similar to breweries.