

INFORMATION BULLETIN – No. 012
Liquor Licence Act /
Alcohol and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996
Statutory Amendments
(July 2007)

Effective July 1, 2007, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is pleased to advise that all of the previously announced statutory changes to the *Liquor Licence Act* (LLA) and *Alcohol and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996* (AGRPPA) have come into force. These reforms were based on extensive consultations with the public and stakeholders and were passed by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in the *Ministry of Government Services Consumer Protection and Service Modernization Act, 2006* in December 2006.

These statutory amendments to the LLA and AGRPPA include provisions:

- Enhancing the investigative authority of the Registrar of Alcohol and Gaming (Registrar) and allowing for the recovery of costs for complex investigations;
- Creating the framework for the development of a risk-based licensing system that will allow for the better targeting of resources and easing of some administrative burdens;
- Empowering the Board of the AGCO to create a schedule of monetary penalties that may be imposed for contraventions of Acts administered by the AGCO, including the LLA, and using the revenue collected for public and stakeholder education.
- Introducing grounds to refuse or revoke a licence if the licensee/applicant is unable to demonstrate sufficient control over the business;
- Creating a two-year waiting period before a person who has had a liquor sales licence refused or revoked for reasons other than those related to the location or public interest may re-apply;
- Transferring the authority from the Board of the AGCO to the Registrar in seven areas to better protect the public, clarify responsibilities and streamline processes;
- Providing the Registrar with the discretion to consolidate liquor sales licences at the same premises if operated by the same licensee;
- Changing the name “brew on premise” to “ferment on premise”;
- Specifying a minimum two-year ineligibility for locations disqualified from hosting events held under Special Occasion Permits;
- Preventing the transfer of a licence after a Notice of Proposal (NOP) has been issued;
- Creating an NOP entitled “Refuse an application for a licence to sell liquor”; and
- Addressing a number of other housekeeping and technical issues.

In conjunction with these legislative amendments, corresponding and complementary regulatory and policy reforms also continue to be introduced. As a whole, these changes represent a balanced package that incorporates significant public safety and consumer protection initiatives, as well as measures that reduce red tape and create a more flexible and modern liquor licensing framework in Ontario.

Please note that, while this Information Bulletin highlights many of the statutory changes made, licence holders are expected to fully comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements. Updated electronic versions of the LLA, AGRPPA and their regulations are available online through the AGCO website at www.agco.on.ca.

For further inquiries about Ontario's liquor licensing framework, including any of the recent changes, please contact AGCO Customer Service at (416) 326-8700 or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-522-2876, and visit the AGCO website on a regular basis.