

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-008

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING SECTIONS 5-1.33, 5-26.2, 5-32, 5-43 and 5-45 OF  
THE CHAMPAIGN MUNICIPAL CODE, 1985  
(Alcoholic Beverages – In General; License Classifications, Term,  
Fees; Regulation of Operation)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN,  
ILLINOIS as follows:

**Section 1.** That Sections 5-1.33, 5-26.2, 5-32, 5-43, and 5-45 of the Champaign Municipal Code, 1985, are hereby amended to read as shown in Exhibit 1, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2.** That this ordinance shall be effective immediately, it being determined by the Council that it is urgent that this ordinance take effect as soon as possible.

**Section 3.** That the City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this ordinance immediately after passage.

**Section 4.** If any section, paragraph, or provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this ordinance, or the provision of the Code.

**Section 5.** The provisions of this ordinance shall take precedence and be interpreted as superseding any other ordinance or statutes in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-008

PASSED: January 20, 2026

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_

**City Attorney Sec. 5-1.33. Special Occasions Facility defined.**

*Special Occasions Facility* shall mean a facility whose primary purpose is in providing space and services, such as serving staff and event coordination, for private and pre-scheduled events. A Special Occasions Facility shall not be generally open to the public except when operating under a Class A rider. A Special Occasions Facility shall have a minimum of 1,000 square feet. A Special Occasions Facility may not be physically connected to or provide access to or be accessible by any other category of license except a Class H licensed premises. Special Occasions Facilities are excluded from the area described in subsection 5-34(e).

**Sec. 5-26.2. Class SO, Special Occasions Facility License.**

- (a) A Class SO, Special Occasions Facility License, shall permit the licensee to sell alcoholic liquor by the drink for consumption on the premises during the course of a private event.
- (b) A Class SO license shall also permit the licensee to sell alcoholic liquor by the drink for consumption on the premises during the course of a pre-scheduled party, gathering, fundraiser, meeting, performance, or other non-private event hosted or organized by the licensee. Such non-private events must be scheduled in advance for a date certain and defined period of time, and written notice of the same provided to the Liquor Commissioner no fewer than ten (10) business days prior to the event. The licensee's ability to sell alcoholic liquor or otherwise provide or allow the consumption of alcoholic liquor shall be limited to the period of time specified for the event in the written notice provided to the Liquor Commissioner.
- (c) The age and identity of all patrons that are served alcoholic liquor shall be verified prior to such service. With the exception of weddings and wedding receptions, patrons aged 21 and over shall be demarcated through use of a wristband, hand stamp, or other similar visual marker that is easily identifiable.
- (d) The licensee and its employees and agents shall actively monitor the premises for and prevent alcohol possession and consumption by individuals under the age of 21.
- (e) The licensee shall comply with the terms of Section 5-45.1 for events primarily engaged towards persons under age 21 and/or when the attendees of an event are or are expected to be primarily under the age of 21.
- (f) For a Special Occasions Facility, the service hours contained in Subsections 5-43(b), (c), and (f) shall be modified such that the referenced hours in subsection (b) shall be 12:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; in subsection (c), 1:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; and in subsection (f), 1:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- (g) The licensee shall provide all alcoholic liquor that is served and consumed on the premises, unless such alcoholic liquor is provided by a person or entity that has been issued a valid Class CA license, and not a Class CA rider, by the Liquor Commissioner. The licensee may also provide corkage service and serve wine provided by the event organizer when the wine is not available through the licensee's distributor.
- (h) For private events that do not involve the service of alcoholic liquor, as well as All-Teen Events as specified in Section 5-45.1, the contractual agreement between the licensee and the event sponsor must specifically state that no alcohol will be served, provided, or consumed on the premises.

(i) The Liquor Commissioner or his/her designee may request the contractual agreement for any private event, and the licensee shall provide the full and complete agreement immediately upon request.

(j) Class SO licenses shall not be available to businesses located in the geographic area described in Section 5-34(e) of this Chapter.

(k) A business with a Class SO license is eligible to apply for a Class A rider. A Class A rider permits the business to operate as a Class A licensee and sell any and all alcoholic liquor by the drink or by the package for consumption within a designated area on the premises only at such times that the business is not hosting private or pre-scheduled events as described in section (b) of this section. If the designated area has an occupancy of more than 150 people, the additional license fees specified in Section 5-32(b) will apply. When a private or pre-scheduled event is taking place, the business shall operate as a Class SO licensee; the premises shall remain closed to anyone not attending the private or pre-scheduled event; and signage shall be posted on or near all public entrances stating the business is only open to event guests. When operating as a Class A licensee, the licensee shall adhere to all ordinance requirements that apply to a Class A retailer's license and the service hour regulations prescribed in Section 5-43 shall apply. There shall be at least a sixty (60) minute time period whenever the licensee transitions operations between classifications (Class SO to Class A or Class A to Class SO) during which time the licensee cannot sell, serve, or allow the consumption of alcoholic liquor on the premises. A Class SO licensee with a Class A rider is eligible to apply for a Class OC outdoor cafe rider and/or to participate in Downtown Festival Districts, both of which would be valid only when the business is operating as a Class A licensee.

### **Sec. 5-32. License fees.**

(a) The following annual base fees shall be paid for licenses to sell alcoholic liquors on Monday through Sunday:

(1) Class A (by the drink).....\$2,400.00

(2) Class B.....\$1,800.00

(3) Class C.....\$2,400.00

(4) Class CA.....\$1,550.00

(5) Class H.....\$2,400.00

(6) Class P.....\$2,400.00

(7) Class R.....\$2,400.00

(8) Class RT.....\$2,400.00

(9) Class AP.....\$4,200.00

(10) Class BW.....\$4,200.00

(11) Class GC.....\$2,400.00

(12) Class TH.....\$2,400.00

(13) Class BYOB-1.....\$500.00

(14) Class BYOB-2.....\$250.00

(15) Class BYOB-3.....\$250.00

(16) Class MV Rider.....\$250.00

(17) Class VG Rider.....\$500.00

(18) Class VL.....\$4,200.00

(19) Class SS Rider.....\$500.00

(20) Class ST.....\$4,200.00

(21) Class SO.....\$2,400.00

(22) Class A Rider.....\$500.00

Class A, C, ST, H, R, or RT license holders who wish to also have a Class CA caterer's retail liquor license rider shall pay an additional annual fee of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).

- (b) In addition to the license fees set out in subsection (a) of this section, the holders of Class A licenses and Class AP licenses and Class H licenses for their restaurants and lounges shall pay an annual fee of six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6.25) per every person over one hundred fifty (150) occupancy, whether seated or standing, including, but not limited to, foyers, dining areas, waiting areas, lounges, game and dance areas. The holder of a Class R or RT license shall pay a fee of three dollars and seventy-five cents (\$3.75) for every person over one hundred fifty (150) occupancy for dining areas and six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6.25) for every person over one hundred fifty (150) occupancy for all other areas. The additional fee set out in this subsection for permanent outside service areas shall be calculated upon one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the actual occupancy of such area. No Class A, Class H, or Class R or RT licensee required to pay the additional fee set out in this subsection shall pay more for the total of the base annual fee and the additional fee set out in this subsection than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). No Class AP license required to pay the additional fee set out in this subsection shall pay more for the total of the base annual fee and the additional fee set out in this subsection than five thousand one hundred dollars (\$5,100.00) for said total. Class C license holders shall be exempt from payment of this fee.
- (c) In addition to the license fees set out in subsections (a) and (b) hereof, the holders of a Class H license shall pay an annual fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per convention and banquet room; provided, however, that a holder of a Class H license shall pay no more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in additional fees set out in this subsection.
- (d) The daily fee for a Class T, except Class T-5, license shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The daily fee for a Class T-5 license shall be one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00). If the City incurs no costs pursuant to [provisions] for the removal of refuse, litter, debris, garbage and the like in connection with the event for which the Class T license was issued, fifty dollars (\$50.00) of the fee shall be refunded to the Class T licensee. No part of the fee shall be considered as prepayment of any such costs or be applied to the payment of any such costs.
- (e) The fee for a Class K keg permit shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- (f) In addition to the required license fees, Class A and Class R and RT license holders who wish to allow BYOB shall be subject to the terms and conditions of Section 5-31.2 and shall pay no additional license fee for a BYOB-1 rider thereunder.
- (g) A holder of Class A, Class AP, or Class R or RT which meets the criteria set forth in Sections 5-31.5 and 5-45.2, may obtain a Class MV music venue rider for an additional annual fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (h) A holder of a Class VG license rider or a Class VL license shall pay, at the time of application and upon said license's renewal, a fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per video gaming terminal installed within the licensed premises. If a VG license rider holder

has elected half-year renewals of its liquor licenses, then the fee due at renewal shall only be paid once per annum. If additional video gaming terminals are installed following application or a license renewal, a holder of a Class VG license rider or a Class VL license shall also pay two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per additional video gaming terminal within ten (10) days of said installation. No portion of any fee shall be prorated, nor shall any portion of any fee be refundable if a terminal is removed or otherwise rendered inoperable following payment of a fee under this section. These per-terminal fees may be divided and shared between the parties in the method described in Subsection 5-36(d)(8).

- (i) The fee for a Class SL license shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month and calculated according to the number of months per year, or portion thereof, for which the license is issued. A Class SL license cannot be issued for longer than six months. No portion of the license fee shall be prorated or refundable.
- (j) The fee for a Class F license shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month and calculated according to the number of months per year, or portion thereof, for which the license is issued. A Class F license cannot be issued for longer than nine months. No portion of the license fee shall be prorated or refundable.

#### **Sec. 5-43. Service hours.**

The following restrictions shall apply regarding the sale, service and consumption of alcoholic liquors on the premises of a liquor licensee, except and to the extent there are more restrictive provisions pertaining to liquor licensees in the CN Commercial Neighborhood Zoning District as defined in Chapter 37 of the Code.

- (a) No agent of a licensee shall sell, offer for sale, deliver or allow the pickup of alcoholic liquor by the package for consumption off the premises between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- (b) No agent of a licensee shall sell, offer for sale, or deliver at retail in or upon any licensed premises any alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. No agent of a licensee shall sell, offer for sale, or deliver at retail in or upon any premises of an R retail liquor licensee any alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises except during times when the service of meals is available on the premises; provided that the availability of the service of meals requirement shall not apply to the lounge area as defined herein.
- (c) No person, regardless of whether a member of the public or an off-duty agent of the licensee, may consume or be in possession of alcoholic liquor in or upon the premises of a licensee between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Any person who conceals any container of alcoholic liquor on the premises of the licensee, or who refuses to relinquish control over any container of alcoholic liquor while on the premises of the licensee in response to a request by an agent of the licensee to do so, in a manner that obstructs the licensee's efforts to comply with this section, shall be deemed to have violated this section.

- (d) No agent of the licensee shall knowingly, recklessly or negligently allow any person to consume alcoholic liquor in violation of subsection (c) above.
- (e) The licensee shall be deemed to have committed a violation under this section if all cups, glasses, bottles or other containers of alcoholic liquor have not been removed

from the customer areas of the premises during the hours when the consumption of alcoholic liquor is prohibited as provided in this section. It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this subsection (e) that a customer or other member of the public concealed such a container from view or otherwise caused a violation of this subsection by resisting reasonable efforts by an agent of the licensee to remove the container or containers in question.

- (f) It shall be unlawful to keep open for business or to admit the public in, or permit the public to remain within the premises for which a Class A, license has been issued or within the lounge of the premises for which a Class R or Class RT license has been issued, between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

The licensee shall be deemed to have violated this subsection (f) if any member of the public is within the premises of the lounge, as the case may be during a time when it is unlawful for the business or the lounge to be open to the public. It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this subsection (f) if the member of the public is present on the premises or in the lounge in violation of this paragraph without the knowledge of any agent of the licensee, or despite the reasonable efforts of one (1) or more agents of the licensee to exclude said member of the public from the premises or lounge in order to comply with this paragraph.

- (g) On the day in which Daylight Saving Time ends each year, as determined by the State of Illinois, licensees may extend their hours of service to remain open an additional hour.

#### **Sec. 5-45. Presence of minors in liquor establishments; teen events.**

- (a) The minimum age for admittance in a liquor establishment shall be as follows:
  - (1) For a Class A without any additional admission age restrictions, nineteen (19) years old.
  - (2) For a Class A with a "9:00 p.m. to close twenty-one (21) and older admission restriction," nineteen (19) years from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. the same day, and twenty-one (21) years from 9:00 p.m. until close on that day.
  - (3) For a Class A with an "All day twenty-one (21) and older admission restriction", twenty-one (21) years.
  - (4) For the bar area of a Class RT, nineteen (19) years.
  - (5) For the bar area of a Class AP, nineteen (19) years.
- (b) No agent of the licensee shall knowingly, recklessly or negligently admit or allow to remain any person under the minimum age for admittance.
- (c) A person under the minimum age for admittance present on the licensed premises shall constitute a prima facie case for a violation of this section.
- (d) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this section if at the time of the violation:
  - (1) The licensee implemented a written policy for checking identification of patrons and this policy was filed with the Liquor Commissioner prior to the date of the incident.
  - (2) As part of the above-referenced policy, the agent of the licensee actually viewed an identification card, as defined in Section 5-66.

- (3) The identification card was not visibly altered.
  - (4) The identification card depicts a person nineteen (19) years or older.
  - (5) That it would be reasonable to believe that the person in possession of the identification card is the person depicted on the identification card, taking into account the following:
    - i. Eye color;
    - ii. Height;
    - iii. Weight;
    - iv. Complexion;
    - v. Age differential between the birth date listed on the identification card and the possessor's actual birth date.
- (e) The licensee shall be deemed to have violated this section if any person under the minimum age for admittance to the licensee is present in or about the licensee's premises except as provided in subsection (g) of this section. It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this section by the licensee if the licensee, at the time of the violation, had implemented a written policy for checking identification of the patrons and that as part of such policy, an agent of the licensee viewed an "identification card" as defined in section 5-66, such identification card reasonably described such person as being old enough for admittance to the licensee and such identification card was not visibly altered.
- (f) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, no person under the minimum age for admittance to the licensee shall enter or remain about a Class A licensed premises or lounge area of a Class R, RT, or AP licensed premises.
- (g) This section shall not apply as follows:
- (1) To indoor sporting facilities used for competitive athletic activities where the sale of alcohol is incidental to the primary purpose of the business. Examples include but are not limited to bowling alleys, basketball, pickleball, soccer, gymnastics, and similar sporting activities.
  - (2) To a person under the minimum age for admittance to the licensee who is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of twenty-one (21).
  - (3) To a restaurant holding a Class A license for other than a lounge area which claims an exemption under this section, registers under this section at the time of application of a license, and meets all of the requirements which must be met by the holder of a Class R license, including but not limited to, filing of affidavits of food and alcohol sales on January thirtieth and July thirtieth of each year, kitchen/dining room ratio, numbers of seats, and provision of additional affidavits or an audit by an independent certified public accountant at any time upon the request of the Liquor Commissioner and at the expense of the licensee. A Class A license holder claiming the exemption set out in this section shall be issued a permit therefore, which permit shall be posted conspicuously at all times.