

PRESS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY OFFERS PANDEMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES FOR BARS AND RESTAURANTS

MONTPELIER, Vt. – [The Department of Liquor and Lottery](#) has launched a series of policies and initiatives to support Vermont's bars and restaurants as they rebound from the economic impact of the pandemic.

At its July board meeting, the Board of Liquor and Lottery clarified that the third-party use of a debit or credit card is not considered credit for the purposes of the board's Regulation Number 1 that prohibits the purchase of alcoholic beverages on credit by any licensee. The clarification supports the Department's policy change that permits bars and restaurants to purchase spirits products from 802Spirits stores using a business or personal debit or credit card.

"This is a major step forward for the hospitality industry," said Chris Karr of Karr Group (Killington) & Vermont Independent Restaurant Leadership Council. "The opportunity to purchase at 802Spirits stores via credit debit cards removes a logistical burden for us. We are grateful for the Department's ongoing efforts to modernize Vermont's liquor laws and advance the economic resiliency of the industry."

The Department's other innovative initiatives to encourage economic growth within the hospitality sector and support licensees include a new On-Premise Sales Program, an online licensing portal, and the Warehouse Collection.

On July 1, 2022, the Department launched its On-Premise Sales Program that provides on-premise licensees with the opportunity to purchase selected products at a discounted price. The On-Premise Sales Program lists spirit products that suppliers offer on sale each month specifically for on-premise licensees. It is modeled after the Department's regular sales program for licensees and walk-in customers, which has not changed or been replaced.

The On-Premise Sales Program is part of the Department's strategic initiative to foster economic growth in Vermont by supporting licensees. As an alcohol beverage control state, Vermont only permits the sale or distribution of distilled spirits through the Department and 802Spirits stores.

"The Department is a unique regulatory agency because it operates a business in the international alcohol beverage industry, in addition to our vital work in educating, regulating, and licensing businesses," said Wendy Knight, Commissioner of the Department of Liquor and Lottery. "As the sole

distributor of distilled spirits in Vermont engaging in commerce with thousands of Vermont bars, restaurants, resorts, and other small businesses, we have an obligation to function at a high level of customer service and adopt practices that support and educate our business customers.”

To better facilitate the liquor licensing process and improve customer service, the Department has created an online licensing portal. The Salesforce-based software will eliminate paper applications and traditional checks. Instead, licensees will now apply and pay online. Licensees will access applications, renewals, educational resources, and compliance information in one online location. Additionally, users will create an account using the State of Vermont’s single sign-in feature, allowing the use of the same login information across multiple State Departments. The Department expects the portal to go live at the end of August.

Finally, DLL has re-vamped what was formerly called “Odds + Ends” into the [Warehouse Collection](#) for on-premise licensees, based on feedback from licensees seeking a wider range and diverse selection of distilled spirits. The Warehouse Collection is comprised of products that consumers ordered through the Department’s Special-Order Process that have remained unclaimed at the Department’s warehouse. Since most of these products are not regularly available in 802Spirits stores, this Warehouse Collection offers licensees a variety of limited-edition products. To date, on-premise licensees have purchased 34 of the 91 bottles initially offered. Warehouse Collection offerings will change monthly based on available inventory.

About the Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery

The [Department of Liquor and Lottery](#) provide a regulatory framework of licensing, compliance, enforcement, and education for the responsible sale and consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and gaming entertainment, ensuring public safety, and contributing 100% of profits to Vermont communities through the General and Education funds.

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