

Liquor Permits

The Department of Consumer Protection administers more than 60 types of liquor permits through the provisions of the state Liquor Control Act (C.G.S. Chapter 545). Under the current system, permits with varying fees and regulatory requirements are based on type of alcohol (e.g., beer, wine, all liquor) and the nature of the business operation. The existing permitting structure results in different permits being issued to substantially similar establishments, for example, restaurants, cafes, and taverns. Another impact of the present system is permit categories must be added or revised to reflect new or even slightly different business operations. Legislation enacted in 2003 to ban smoking in restaurants and bars raised questions about the growing complexity of Connecticut's liquor permitting structure.

Area of Focus

The study will focus on analyzing the type, purpose, and associated fees of state liquor permits with a goal of simplifying and clarifying the regulatory structure. How permitting addresses local community concerns regarding regulated entities will also be examined.

Areas of Analysis

- What types of liquor permits are issued and what regulatory requirements and fees are associated with each type?
- What is the purpose of each permit type and to what extent is there overlap or duplication?
- What is the basis for current fees and how are fees related to permit type and purpose?
- How does Connecticut's liquor permit structure compare to those in states with similar regulatory systems.
- What impact does the current permit structure have on regulatory efficiency and effectiveness?
- How does state permitting consider and respond to local community concerns about the location and operation of regulated entities?
- What, if any, implications would changes to the state permit and fee structure have with respect to federal and local liquor regulation?
- What, if any, changes are needed to simplify and clarify the existing liquor permit and fee structure?

Areas Excluded from Analysis

Administration of the permitting process and liquor permit enforcement activities will not be evaluated in this study.