

WHAT ARE “TAVERN GAMES”?

Three types of games of chance are considered “tavern games.” They are:

- Pull-tab games
- Daily drawings
- Tavern raffles – must be for a charitable or public purpose

No tavern game may have any single prize higher than \$2,000. No more than \$35,000 may be awarded through tavern games in any consecutive seven-day period.

No more than one tavern raffle may be held a month.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A TAVERN GAMING LICENSE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD (PLCB)?

Applicants for a Tavern Gaming License must hold an active and current:

- Restaurant liquor license (this includes specialized licenses, such as PAF, PGR, AR, etc.)
- Hotel liquor license
- Privately-owned public golf course liquor license
- Brewery pub license

However, the following CANNOT apply for a Tavern Gaming License:

- Eating Place Retail Dispenser Licenses (“E” license type)
- Club and Catering Club Licenses (“C”, “CC” and “O” license types)
- Grocery Stores (Most hold an “R” license type)
- Casinos (Most hold an “R” license type)
- Venues that hold professional sporting events
- Limited winery (“LK”) and Limited Distillery (“AL”) licensees
- Any licensee that operates in a municipality that has not approved Small Games of Chance
- Locations that have been declared to be “nuisances” under Section 611 of the Liquor Code
- Licensees whose liquor license is in “safekeeping”
- Licensees whose liquor license locations have been objected to by the PLCB Bureau of Licensing
- Locations that sell liquid fuels
- Individuals who have been convicted of a felony offense or a misdemeanor gambling offense in any jurisdiction within the last 15 years

HOW DO I GET A TAVERN GAMING LICENSE?

You must complete a New Tavern Gaming License on [PLCB+](#) and attach the application can be found [here](#).

Once the application, required documents and fees are received, the Gaming Control Board will conduct a thorough background investigation on the licensee and all officers of the establishment.

HOW MUCH DOES APPLYING FOR A TAVERN GAMING LICENSE COST?

To apply, individuals must submit \$2,000 to the PLCB along with a completed application. From that, the PLCB will then distribute the initial \$1,000 investigation fee to the Gaming Control Board.

If the cost of conducting the background investigation increases, the applicant must pay those additional costs.

If an applicant is approved, the licensee must pay an additional \$500 fee.

There is an annual renewal fee of \$1,000 per license.



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY MONEY IF MY TAVERN GAMING LICENSE IS NOT APPROVED OR IF I WITHDRAW THE APPLICATION?

The application fee and background check fees are non-refundable.

WHERE DO THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH A TAVERN GAMING LICENSE AND THE TAVERN GAMING TAXES GO?

To cover administrative costs, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board will retain the \$1,000 licensing fee. The Gaming Control Board receives a minimum of \$1,000 to pay for the background investigation. A \$500 licensing fee, paid once the license has been approved, goes directly into Pennsylvania's General Fund.

State tavern gaming tax is deposited into General Fund; the host municipality tax is deposited into a restricted account and transferred to the municipality in which the tavern is located.

WHAT DOES THE BACKGROUND CHECK ENTAIL?

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board will conduct a thorough investigation of the applicant, officers and managers, including a criminal background check and a credit check.

WHO APPROVES THE LICENSE?

The Gaming Control Board will submit a report detailing the suitability of the applicant to the PLCB, which will approve or deny the license.

DO I HAVE TO RENEW A TAVERN GAMING LICENSE?

A Tavern Gaming License is valid for one year, and it must be renewed annually through your PLCB+ account. There is an annual renewal fee of \$1,000 per license.

IS A TAVERN GAMING LICENSE TRANSFERABLE SHOULD I WANT TO SELL IT?

No. A Tavern Gaming License is non-transferrable.

If a business changes hands, the new owners must apply for a Tavern Gaming License in the same way as the original licensee. If there is a change in ownership of the business or premises, the PLCB must be notified.

Additionally, no security interests – i.e., liens – may be placed on a Tavern Gaming License.

I'M A DISTRIBUTOR/MANUFACTURER OF PULL-TABS. WHAT MUST I DO TO GET MY GAMES INTO TAVERNS?

To distribute pull-tabs to club licensees, eligible organizations or taverns, small games of chance distributors must be licensed and manufacturers must be registered with the Department of Revenue. Visit www.revenue.pa.gov/TaxTypes/SGOC/Pages/default.aspx and complete form REV-1753, Application for Small Games of Chance, Licensing of Distributors and Registration of Manufacturers.

I'M A TAVERN OWNER LOOKING TO OFFER PULL-TABS. HOW DO I FIND A DISTRIBUTOR?

Licensed distributors are listed on the Department of Revenue's small games of chance website, www.revenue.pa.gov/TaxTypes/SGOC/Pages/default.aspx.

