



ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

June 24, 2016

Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission Releases Updated Licensure Totals for Wine in Grocery Stores

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission has approved retail food store licenses for 422 grocery stores throughout Tennessee. As of Friday, June 24th, 422 stores—73 percent of all grocery stores that applied—had received licenses in accordance with the state's new law allowing for retail wine sales in grocery stores.

The ABC staff continues to collaborate with the remaining stores to obtain additional documentation required for approval. The ABC will review every license application received as of today and is close to completing that step already, according to Executive Director Clayton Byrd.

“We have made tremendous progress in reviewing and processing applications from hundreds of stores as we move toward the July 1 rollout,” said Byrd. Nearly every grocery store in the state holding a conditional letter of approval before the July 1 rollout who took steps to sell wine on July 1st will be able to do so on that date.”

Grocery stores that have been issued licenses can begin selling wine on July 1. As numbers currently stand, the ABC has received 573 applications, issued 430 conditional letters of approval, delivered 422 licenses, and conducted 551 site inspections.

“We are very appreciative of the hard work and efforts of the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission in processing all 69 of Food City's wine licenses. We are excited to be able to provide a much requested product to our consumers and look forward to working with the new Commission Director, Clay Byrd and his staff to refine this process even further,” says Steven C. Smith, Food City President/CEO.

“This is a new licensure process in Tennessee, and it's not a surprise that we faced some challenges in working through the details of getting hundreds of stores approved and licensed. We are systematically working with stores to help them through the process, while at the same time performing due diligence to protect the public interest. The ABC is dedicated to doing both in these final days,” said Byrd.