



March 10, 2025

Authority of Cities and Class B (Metropolitan Government) Counties

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Authority of Cities and Class B (Metropolitan Government) Counties

Reference Number: CTAS-336

Cities and Class B counties are authorized to pass ordinances governing the issuance and revocation or suspension of licenses for the storage, sale, manufacture and distribution of beer within their corporate limits, and within the general services district of Class B counties outside the limits of any smaller cities. Cities and Class B counties may impose restrictions in addition to those set out by statute, fix zones and territories, provide hours of operation and impose other rules and regulations to promote public health, morals and safety. Cities and Class B counties may authorize the sale of beer in hotel and motel rooms and in clubs and lodges. T.C.A. § 57-5-106. Cities and Class B counties have extensive authority to regulate the sale of beer, which includes the authority to limit the number and location of retail outlets. See, e.g., State ex rel *Amvets Post 27 v. Beer Board*, 717 S.W.2d 878 (Tenn. 1986). The powers of cities and Class B counties to regulate the sale of beer extends even to the extent of prohibition. *Ketner v. Clabo*, 225 S.W.2d 54 (Tenn. 1949). Cities and Class B counties may establish different distance requirements for the sale of beer in different, well-defined sections of their jurisdictions. Attorney General Opinion 02-092 (8/28/02).

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