

BULLETIN



Comptroller of the Treasury 1 Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit 1 Goldstein Treasury Building 1 P.O. Box 2999
Annapolis, Maryland 21404-2999 • Telephone: 410-260-7314

No. AB-20

June 5, 1998

TO: Entities That Serve Alcoholic Beverages at Catered Events

SUBJECT: Statewide Caterer's License - New Requirement

The 1998 session of the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 1376 which creates a statewide caterer's license effective October 1, 1998. This license will be required of current retail license holders who cross jurisdictional lines within Maryland and for anyone else who caters events where alcoholic beverages are provided. An existing retail licensee who only caters in their home jurisdiction need *not* obtain a statewide caterer's license but must comply with any requirements of the local Board of License Commissioners.

A statewide caterer's license may be issued as a general license or as a limited license. The general license is valid throughout Maryland, while the limited license is only valid in three contiguous political subdivisions as designated by the applicant. License fees range from \$750 to \$2,000 depending on the type of license and, in the case of a limited license, the total population of the designated jurisdictions. Retailers who already have a separate caterer's license from their local board, or who pay an additional fee for the privilege of catering in their home jurisdiction, are entitled to a credit for the fee paid.

Any person or entity who wishes to engage in catering activities as described above must obtain a statewide caterer's license as of October 1, 1998. After that date, the

Comptroller's Office will actively enforce provisions of existing law concerning sales without a license and the prohibition against retail licensees crossing jurisdictional lines.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit has prepared packets for potential applicants. The packet includes forms and instructions, an outline of the requirements for a statewide caterer's license, and an explanation of the authority conferred by a statewide caterer's license. To obtain an application packet, call the License and Permit Section at 410-260-7323, write to us at the above address, or e-mail us at att@comp.state.md.us.

To allow sufficient time for processing and investigation, new applicants for a statewide caterer's license should submit their applications with all pertinent attachments to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit as soon as possible but not later than **August 1, 1998**. Applications submitted after that date will be processed, but there may not be sufficient time to complete the investigation and background process before the October 1, 1998 effective date.

If you have questions about this new requirement, please contact Stephen G. Taylor, Assistant Director, at 410-260-7313, or Linda L. Bates, Regulatory Control Manager, at 410-260-7532.

Charles W. Ehart, DPA Director

For the hearing impaired: Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258, TTY: 410-260-7157 (Baltimore metro area). If you need a reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact us before you visit. If you need the information in this publication in an alternate format, contact: Public Affairs Office 410-260-7995 (voice), 410-260-7157 (TDD).