

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LIQUOR COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING FORTHCOMING REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AGENCY LIQUOR STORE SALES AGENT, PITTSBURG, NEW HAMPSHIRE:

On August 27, 2021, pursuant to RSA 177:11 and New Hampshire Administrative Rule Liq 508, the New Hampshire Liquor Commission (“NHLC”) will issue a Request for Applications (“RFA”), through which it will attempt to identify one eligible agency liquor store sales agent in Pittsburg, New Hampshire.

An agency liquor store is a liquor outlet that is not owned or operated by the NHLC, but rather, is licensed by the NHLC for the purpose of selling packaged liquor for off-premise consumption. The Sales Agent is the individual, partnership, association, corporation, or limited liability company that the NHLC licenses to operate an agency liquor store.

An agency liquor store sales agent must operate the agency liquor store as an adjunct component to a business that holds a combination license under RSA 178:18—*i.e.* a license that authorizes the sale of beer and/or wine for off-premises consumption. In addition to a combination license, the adjunct business must have operational financial stability based solely on its non-alcohol sales, which means the business must be financial viable exclusive of alcohol sales.

The forthcoming RFA issuance will initiate a numerically-scored competitive process through which each applicant must submit a detailed business plan of operations and other information that demonstrates that it:

1. Satisfies the requirements set forth in RSA 177 and Liq 508;
2. Will provide the greatest revenue to the state; and
3. Will provide the best service to the public based on: a) price; b) product selection; c) hours of operation; d) location; and e) sales area and layout.

The NHLC will also consider the suitability of the applicant’s location, the applicant’s financial stability and capability, its business experience as well as that of its management, and other related considerations.

The NHLC will permit the highest-scored RFA applicant to initiate the agency store licensure process set forth in the NHLC’s Liq 700 rules, and, upon successful completion of that process, operate an agency liquor store in Pittsburg, New Hampshire.

The RFA document will outline the application submittal and evaluation processes in detail. Potential applicants with questions regarding agency liquor stores, agency liquor store sales agents, and RFA procedures, will have the opportunity to pose those questions to the NHLC and receive written answers in accordance with the inquiry procedures outlined in the RFA.

The NHLC will post the RFA and other communications regarding the agency store sales agent selection process on its website at: <https://www.nh.gov/liquor/agencyliquorstore.shtml>.