**AGENCY**

The **Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations** is a part of the State Department of Administrative & Financial Services (DAFS). The Bureau effectively regulates the beverage alcohol industry in Maine by ensuring responsible business practices by agency liquor stores, beer and wine wholesalers, and on-premise licensees (bars and restaurants) while creating a favorable business climate.

The State of Maine
State Department of Administrative & Financial Services
| Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations 
  | Spirits | Lottery | Licensing and Enforcement |

**WET and DRY COUNTIES**

Local option votes by municipalities, or if an unorganized township, by the county commissioners, are required to determine whether the sale of alcoholic beverages for on and/or off premises consumption is permitted including whether sales are permitted Monday through Saturday and separately Sunday.

State law allows local jurisdictions to control alcohol availability.

**REVENUE**

In FY18, Maine distributed its spirits business revenue into five avenues:

- Liquor Operations Revenue Bond (84%)
- General Fund (4%)
- Department of Environmental Protection (4%)
- Department of Health and Human Services (4%)
- Department of Transportation (4%)

**AGENCY HISTORY**

The State’s regulation of liquor originated in 1862 with the establishment of a Commission to Regulate Sale of Intoxicating Liquors and to have control of liquors kept and sold for medicinal and manufacturing purposes. In 1992, the Maine State Lottery and the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages were combined to become the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. The following year, the Maine State Liquor Commission and State Lottery Commission were merged into a single, combined Commission of five members. The members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature and meet monthly to provide public oversight of statutory requirements. The Bureau’s day to day operations are overseen by the Director who is appointed by the Commissioner of DAFS.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Enforcement matters are handled by the Division of Liquor Licensing and Enforcement within the Bureau.

The Bureau can adopt rules consistent with laws of the State for the administration, clarification, execution and enforcement concerning liquor and to prevent violations.

**Population 21 and over (Estimate) (2015)**

979,186

**REVENUE**

$51,674,687

 FY 2018 Net Revenue

From 2003 through 2018, the Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages has contributed more than $374 million in profit to the state.
The Bureau takes the responsibility of enforcing Maine’s liquor laws seriously. The prohibition of the sale to and the consumption by minors of liquor is a major focus. The Bureau works closely with the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to create social responsibility and awareness programs about effects of alcohol on persons under the age of 21.

The Bureau created and maintains a readily available, certified, web-based Seller/Server Training program for sellers and servers of beverage alcohol who are unable to attend traditional classroom-style training. This training is mandatory by ordinance in Portland and Bangor. The Bureau’s goal is to ensure all sellers and servers have access to training to reduce the irresponsible sale and use of beverage alcohol.

The Bureau created and began distributing Licensee Tool Kits to off-premise agency stores and on-premise licensees. The tool kits contain valuable information for licensees, such as training information, Administrative Liquor Laws Quick Reference Guide, policy development resources, ID Checking Guide and other tools. The Bureau also conducts compliance checks during high school prom and graduation periods.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Control systems** -- jurisdictions that directly control the distribution and sale of beverage alcohol in their borders.

**Three-tier system** -- the method of alcohol distribution developed after Prohibition in the United States. Producers/manufacturers (first tier) can sell products only to wholesalers/distributors (second tier) who then sell to retailers (third tier).

**Revenue Per Capita** -- revenue per person.

**Wet and dry counties** -- Wet jurisdictions are those that permit the sale of spirits, wine, or beer for on-premise and off-premise consumption. Dry jurisdictions prohibit some or all alcohol sales, whether on- or off-premise.