

AGENCY

The **West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA)** is a revenue generating state agency under the West Virginia Department of Revenue. The WVABCA's mission is to regulate and control the manufacture, sale, distribution, transportation, storage and consumption of alcohol while assuring the greatest degree of personal freedom consistent with the health, safety and welfare of every West Virginian. The WVABCA's core functions are; enforcing the laws and regulations, performing all licensing functions and operating a wholesale Distribution Center in a cost efficient manner.



WET and DRY COUNTIES

State law allows local jurisdictions to hold public referendums and/or approve local laws or regulations on alcohol sales.

There are counties and municipalities in the state that remain dry.

Dry applies to off premises sales of spirits and wine.

Population 21 and over
(Estimate) (2015) **1,398,884**

NET REVENUE

WV distributes its net revenue into one avenue:

- General Fund (100%)



Figures are from 2015

HISTORY

The WVABCA was created in 1935. In 1981, the state privatized wine sales. In 1990, a law was passed to discontinue all retail sales of alcohol by the state, but it retained the distribution of liquor. Two hundred and fourteen state liquor stores were bid out to allow the private sector to purchase retail liquor outlet stores in assigned market zones in 1990 and 1991. Every ten years the Retail Liquor Licensing Board RLLB reviews the market zones and the existing number of retail liquor outlet stores in the state to direct the WVABCA to proceed with the rebid. There are currently 178 retail liquor outlet stores in West Virginia that were obtained through a bidding process and who also pay annual license fees. These licenses will expire June 30, 2020.

ENFORCEMENT

The Enforcement Division is committed to enforcing state laws pertaining to the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption, and possession of alcoholic beverages.

Some of the duties of the Enforcement Division include:

- Initial inspection for licensing purposes
- Background checks on applicants for a WVABCA license
- Inspections of Class A and Class B licensed establishments
- Inspections to ensure that premises are properly licensed
- Responding to complaints received from the public regarding violations
- Underage alcohol compliance checks

\$18,922,479
2017 Net Revenue



From 2003 through 2017, the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration has contributed more than \$270 million to the state.

DISTRIBUTION

In West Virginia, the WVABCA conducts wholesale sale of spirits, while the retail sale of spirits is privately owned and provided by 178 retail liquor outlet stores. Wine reaches the retail market through suppliers and distributors with approved and registered products not assigned to a specific territory. Beer is under a franchise system with specific franchise agreements detailing geographic and brand requirements.

Does jurisdiction allow direct shipping of wine?



Estimated tax per standard drink:

SPIRITS: \$0.039

WINE: \$0.134

BEER: \$0.081

OUTLETS AND GROCERY STORES

West Virginia has 178 privately owned retail liquor outlet stores.

- West Virginia has policies that regulate the density of off-premise outlets in a neighborhood/precinct/condensed area
- Jurisdiction does allow the sale of spirits in convenience stores
- Servers must be 18 years old and older to serve beer at on-premise outlets, and employees at off-premise outlets must be 18 years old to sell beer
- The sale of beer, wine and spirits are permitted in grocery stores
- Sunday sales are allowed
- Keg registration is not required
- For every 100,000 residents ages 21 and older, there are 12.7 spirits outlets
- No beverage service training law

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION IN ACTION



DUI SIMULATOR PROGRAM--Financial support from State Farm®, West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program and NABCA allowed the WVABCA to purchase a DUI Simulator and develop a program to include a classroom lecture and survey component. The DUI Simulator is incased in a customized mobile trailer that travels across the state. It mimics difficulties drivers will face at various blood alcohol content (BAC) levels and is a valuable tool to combat underage drinking and distractive driving. The Simulator encourages youth to make good decisions while behind the wheel and throughout life. Since the public unveiling in September 2010, the DUI Simulator has reached over 42,000 students.

NO SCHOOL SPIRITS PSA CONTEST--The annual NO School Spirits PSA Contest invites public and private high school students to submit an essay or YouTube video addressing the dangers of drinking and driving or underage alcohol consumption. The WVABCA creates a 60 second PSA based upon the winning entry and the winner receives a monetary prize to be used for a school sanctioned event or equipment. The PSA is shown across the state during the prom and graduation season and is used as part of the lecture component of the DUI Simulator Program. The sponsors listed above also support the NO School Spirits Contest.

BEST PRACTICES CARDING VIDEO--The WVABCA developed and produced a Best Carding Practices Video. Both Class A (on-premises) and Class B (off-premises) licensees may view separate videos on the WVABCA website. Additionally, during inspections the Enforcement Division can show the video using their iPads. Hard copies of the DVD can be ordered at no cost.

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.

Sources: 2016 Survey Database, State Alcohol Tax Rates (July 2016), Educational Awards Program Reports for 2014-2015, West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration, The Beverage Information Group's 2015 Fact Book, Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS)