



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
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**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION (“ABCC”) ADVISORY
REGARDING CHANGES TO M.G.L. c. 138, § 15F- FARMER’S MARKET PERMIT**

On November 20, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed (in part) “An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts’ Economic Leadership” which made changes to Farmer’s Market Permits (M.G.L. c. 138, § 15F). The text of the bill can be found [HERE](#).

Farmer brewers (M.G.L. c. 138, § 19C), pub brewers (M.G.L. c. 138, § 19D), and farmer distillers (M.G.L. c. 138, § 19E) are now allowed to apply to local licensing authorities for the issuance of Farmer’s Market Permits. Farmer wineries (M.G.L. c. 138, § 19B) may still apply to local licensing authorities for the issuance of Farmer’s Market Permits.

This type of license is issued at the sole discretion of the Local Licensing Authorities and does not require the approval of the ABCC.

The application can be found using this link, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/apply-for-a-special-license-or-permit-abcc>. The application was drafted to assist with these licenses, and it is modeled after our farmer series license applications. The use of this application is not required but is an additional tool to assist in simplifying the process. Its use is solely at the discretion of the Local Licensing Authorities, which may require additional information that it believes is appropriate.

All applicants must submit a certification from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources that the Farmer’s Market, for which they are seeking a license, is an “agricultural event.” These licenses are not subject to the quota or limit on the number of section 15 licenses that otherwise exist in each city or town.

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law.

Questions concerning this Advisory may be directed to Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission at (617) 727- 3040 x 731.

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