

House Bill 674

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, Harrell of the 106th, and Williams of the 145th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alcoholic beverages,
2 so as to provide for Department of Revenue to develop and implement a state-wide,
3 centralized application process for retailers for initial applications and renewals for licenses
4 and permits; to provide for uniform procedures and forms for such online process; to provide
5 for remittance and reporting of application fees; to provide for the State Revenue
6 Commissioner to adopt certain rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to
7 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alcoholic beverages, is
11 amended by adding a new Code Section 3-2-7.1 to read as follows:

12 "3-2-7.1.

13 (a) On or before January 1, 2021, the department shall develop and implement a
14 state-wide, centralized application process for initial applications and renewals for licenses
15 and permits for retailers in order to provide for uniform and streamlined practices with
16 respect to such application and renewal process that both the department and any local
17 governing authority of any county or municipality that issues licenses or permits to retailers
18 shall be required to use. Such process shall provide for such licenses and permits for
19 retailers that may be issued by the department and by the governing authority of any county
20 or municipality to be applied for and renewed online. The department in developing and
21 implementing such process shall consider input from retailers, local governments, and the
22 associations that represent them.

23 (b) The department shall prescribe uniform procedures and forms for the initial application
24 and renewal for licenses and permits for retailers to be used in the state-wide, centralized
25 application process and shall provide for the local governing authority of any county or
26 municipality to provide electronic forms to be added to such process for any additional

27 information that is necessary in order to determine if a local license or local permit may be
28 issued or renewed that such local governing authority demonstrates substantially differs
29 from that requested through the procedures and forms developed by the department, such
30 as, but not limited to, any distance requirements.

31 (c) The state-wide, centralized application process shall ensure that any initial application
32 or renewal is sent simultaneously upon completion to the department and the appropriate
33 local governing authority; provided, however, that the department may require that a valid
34 local license or permit be issued prior to granting a license or permit.

35 (d) The state-wide, centralized application process shall provide for the remittance and
36 reporting of all fees for initial applications and renewals for licenses and permits for
37 retailers and may do so by requiring the applicant to pay the department and the local
38 governing authorities of the county or municipality separately at the time the initial
39 application or renewal is submitted.

40 (e) The department shall administer the state-wide, centralized application process and
41 shall provide access to the necessary authorized users.

42 (f) The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement and
43 administer the provisions this Code section."

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
46 without such approval.

47 **SECTION 3.**

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.