

What is a Veteran or Fraternal Club License?

An alcoholic beverage license that allows qualifying veterans' or fraternal clubs to serve all types of alcoholic beverages.

Veterans' clubs are organizations where military veterans gather to support one another, socialize, and serve their community.

Examples: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Fraternal clubs are groups with shared interests, values, or goals that meet regularly for socializing, community service, or charitable activities.

Examples: Knights of Columbus, Elks Club, Rotary Clubs, Freemasons.

To qualify, the club **MUST**:

- Operated at the same location for at least 5 years or held the license within the past 10 years.
- Veterans License: be a post of a nationally chartered veterans' organization, serving enlisted personnel, non-commissioned officers, and officers.
- Fraternal License: Be part of a nationally chartered fraternal organization with a substantial program of activities.
- Be a part of a nationally chartered organization established before January 1, 1949.
 - *The license is not a quota license and is licenses issued after the above date are non-transferable, meaning they may not be sold.*

Costs:

- City License: \$250 - \$650 (For clubs inside city limits or within 5 miles of a city/township)
- County License: \$250 (For clubs outside the 5-mile city limit)
- Application Processing Fee: \$400 (*One-time fee for new applications, not for renewals*)
- Renewal Fee: \$250 - \$650

To Apply:

- Fill out the National Veterans or Fraternal License Application online, found on the [TransAction Portal site](#).
- The entity's board members in charge of the [day-to-day](#) operations and an on-site manager must meet vetted criteria

- The premises must meet suitability

Once approved, a Veteran or Fraternal Club Licensee MAY:

- Operate between 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- Apply for an alcohol catering endorsement
- Apply for up to three special permits per year (see [Special Permit Booklet](#))

Veteran or Fraternal Club License MAY NOT:

- Have a new concession agreement (see Grandfather Clause below)
- Apply for gambling privileges (any new licenses issued after May 8, 2025)

Grandfather Clause

Licensees with approved concession agreements in effect or concession agreements submitted to **ABCD for approval before January 1, 2021:**

- May have more than three (3) existing concession agreements if they were previously approved or applied for, unless they choose to elect to comply with 16-4-418, MCA.
- May remain in effect until a licensee applies for and receives department approval to change ownership or location of the license.
- May be assigned to new concessionaires operating in the same premises if the provisions of the concession agreements are otherwise unmodified with Department review and approval.

Allows veteran and fraternal organizations that had a license under 16-4-201(8), MCA and concession agreement **in place on or after January 1, 2016**, to use or obtain a veteran or fraternal license and enter into concession agreements.

Questions? Contact a licensing specialist for your county ([Contact a Licensing Specialist list](#)).

All licensees and permit holders must comply with all Federal and Montana alcoholic beverage laws and rules.

SECTIONS 16-4-201(7), 16-4-201(8), 16-4-209, 16-4-110, 16-4-418, 16-4-501, MCA

[8.2025](#) Please note the information in department communications may have been modified, superseded, or made obsolete by changes in federal or state law or the Administrative Rules of Montana. If you need to verify the current validity of any Department of Revenue communication, please contact us.

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