



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

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Gov. Beshear Announces Provisional License for Tobacco, Nicotine and Vapor Product Retailers

Provisional licenses will be issued to those who apply for licensure before Jan. 1

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 30, 2025) – Today, Gov. Beshear announced that a provisional license will be issued to tobacco, nicotine and vapor product retailers who have applied for a license from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) before Jan. 1, 2026. The provisional license will allow a business to continue operations while an application for full licensure is being reviewed and will expire once action is taken on the pending application.

Senate Bill 100 created a new licensing requirement for tobacco, nicotine and vapor product retailers and strengthened enforcement to ensure only products legal in Kentucky are being sold.

"I signed Senate Bill 100 into law to help make sure harmful tobacco and vapor products are not marketed and sold to our kids, and during this transition, I am committed to supporting our businesses that are working to do the same," said Gov. Beshear. "This provisional license will allow businesses that are committed to selling legal product through the licensure process to continue operation as we take steps together to protect Kentucky's children."

On Dec. 29, 2025, the Department filed an emergency regulation to ensure that retailers who have applied for a license before Jan. 1, 2026, are not penalized while the Department continues the process of thoroughly evaluating each application. ABC urges any tobacco and vapor product retailer who has not yet applied for licensure through the ABC to act promptly. No provisional licenses will be issued after the Jan. 1 deadline.

To assist businesses that need to acquire the new license established by S.B. 100, ABC officials have worked diligently to successfully implement a new online licensing system

with a streamlined application process. The Department continues to work closely with businesses needing assistance with the application portal or with questions about the application process. The Department has also proactively met with businesses and business groups to educate them on the new requirements and directly answer their questions about this new licensing requirement.

The Department expects to issue over 4,000 new licenses to tobacco, nicotine and vapor product retailers by the end of 2025.

On March 24, 2025, Gov. Beshear signed S.B. 100 into law. To ensure harmful tobacco and vapor products are not marketed and sold to youth across Kentucky, the law requires all tobacco, nicotine and vapor product retailers to obtain an annual state license through ABC and strengthens enforcement including:

- Instituting a new enforcement team to investigate consumer complaints. A portion of collected fines will be directed to youth vaping prevention efforts.
- Routine and unannounced compliance checks to ensure retailers are not selling to minors or selling illegal product; and
- Greater fines and penalties for violating the law, including potential loss of licensure and criminal penalties for selling without a license.

Any business participating in the retail sale of tobacco, nicotine and vapor products as of Jan. 1, 2026, is urged to submit its application immediately. There is no additional application process, or additional fee for the provisional license. Applications are available exclusively through [ABC's Online Licensing Portal](#). For more information or assistance with your application, contact the ABC at abc.info@ky.gov.

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