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Changes to liquor license renewal process

Procedure will be made more efficient for all stakeholders, Tax Administrator says

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation has changed the liquor license renewal process to make it more efficient for everyone involved, said Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan.

Certificate of good standing applications for liquor license renewals will be due to the Rhode Island Division of Taxation on or before Monday, August 17, 2015. In prior years, the date was in September. The change will allow the Division to begin its review earlier – allowing applications to be processed sooner.

Furthermore, the Division plans to complete the process of sending certificates of good standing to cities and towns by November 1, 2015. This is one month earlier than usual, allowing license holders more time to get their licenses renewed by municipalities – and giving cities and towns more time for processing.

Background

Liquor licenses are issued by cities and towns. But to get your liquor license renewed, you must obtain a certificate of good standing from the Division of Taxation – which means that you must be current on your state taxes. Because all liquor licenses expire with local cities and towns on December 1, 2015, now is the time to take the necessary steps toward license renewal, Sullivan said.

The Division of Taxation last month mailed out approximately 1,900 certificate of good standing/ liquor license renewal applications. In prior years, completed applications had to be returned to the Tax Division in September. However, this year, the deadline is August 17 to allow for earlier processing.

All applications must be completed and returned on time in order for the Tax Division to process the applications and issue certificate of good standing clearances to local city clerks' and town clerks' offices.

The Division of Taxation plans to send its first batch of certificates of good standing to cities and towns on October 15, 2015. The Division of Taxation intends to have all certificates of good standing sent to cities and towns by November 1, 2015.

“The earlier you apply to the Division of Taxation, the faster you can get your liquor license renewed by your city or town,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan also provided the following tips for avoiding potential snags:

- ◆ Apply for renewal, and pay your back taxes, well in advance of the license-renewal deadline – don’t wait until later this year.
- ◆ When paying your back taxes, keep in mind that the Tax Division accepts only certified bank checks or money orders.
- ◆ Contact the Tax Division’s Compliance & Collections section at (401) 574-8941 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days if you have any questions or need additional information.

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