

General Information/FAQs

Certification Requirements

All municipalities are required to obtain a copy of each individual/entity's board certifications and/or permits prior to issuance of a municipal business license. For a list of types of licenses that require board certification, www.avenuinsights.com. Please provide a copy of your certification/permit along with your application (if applicable).

Issuance of a business license by RDS does not permit business operation unless the business is properly zoned and/or in compliance with all applicable laws/rules and meet all required certifications.

Gross Receipts, Definition of

If the business is physically located in the incorporated city limits or police jurisdiction, the business must report ALL gross receipts for the business conducted in the State of Alabama. They can deduct out- of- state sales. If the business is a service-based business and not physically located in the incorporated city limits or police jurisdiction then they must report the gross receipts for that jurisdiction only.

The measure of any and all receipts of a business from whatever source derived, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws and constitutional provisions, is to be used in calculating the amount due for a business license. Provided, however, that:

- A. Gross receipts shall not include any of the following taxes collected by the business on behalf of any taxing jurisdiction or the federal government: All taxes which are imposed on the ultimate consumer, collected by the taxpayer and remitted by or on behalf of the taxpayer to the taxing authority, whether state, local or federal, including utility gross receipts levied pursuant to Article 3, Chapter 21, Title 40; license taxes levied pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 21, Title 40; or reimbursements to professional employer organizations of federal, state or local payroll taxes or unemployment insurance contributions; but no other deductions or exclusions from gross receipts shall be allowed except as provided in this article.
- B. A different basis for calculating the business license may be used by the municipality with respect to certain categories of taxpayers as prescribed in Section 11-51-90B.
- C. For a utility or other entity described in Section 11-51-129, gross receipts shall be limited to the gross receipts derived from the retail furnishing of utility services within the municipality during the preceding year that are taxed under Article 3 of Chapter 21 of Title 40, except that nothing herein shall affect any existing contract or agreement between a municipality and a utility or other entity. The gross receipts derived from the furnishing of utility services shall not be subject to further business license taxation by the municipality.
- D. Gross receipts shall not include dividends or other distributions received by a corporation, or proceeds from borrowing, the sale of a capital asset, the repayment of the principal portion of a loan, the issuance of stock or other equity investments, or capital contributions, or the undistributed earnings of subsidiary entities.

Location Specific, Definition

The up-to-date physical location must be provided on all renewals in order to prevent delays in the issuance of the license.

a. For each place at which any business is carried on, a separate license shall be paid, and any person desiring to engage in any business for which a license is required shall designate the place at which business is carried on, and the license to be issued shall designate such place, and such license shall authorize the carrying on of such business only at the place designated.

b. Every person dealing in two or more of the articles, or engaging in two or more of the businesses, vocations, occupations or professions scheduled herein, shall take out and pay for a license for each line of business.

c. A taxpayer subject to the license authorized by this ordinance that is engaged in business in other municipalities, may account for its gross receipts so that the part of its gross receipts attributable to its branch offices will not be subject to the business license imposed by this ordinance. To establish a bona fide branch office, the taxpayer must demonstrate proof of all following criteria:

(i) The taxpayer must demonstrate the continuing existence of an actual facility located outside the police jurisdiction in which its principal business office is located, such as a retail store, outlet, business office, showroom, or warehouse, to which employees and/or independent contractors are assigned or located during regular normal working hours.

(ii) The taxpayer must maintain books and records, which reasonably indicate a segregation or allocation of the taxpayer's gross receipts to the particular facility of facilities.

(iii) The taxpayer must provide proof that separate telephone listings, signs, and other indications of its separate activity are in existence.

(iv) Billing and/or collection activities relating to the business conducted at the branch office or offices are performed by an employee or other representative, of the taxpayer who has such responsibility for the branch office.

(v) All business claimed by a branch office or offices must be conducted by and through said office or offices.

(vi) The taxpayer must supply proof that all applicable business licenses with respect to the branch office or offices have been issued.

d. Nothing herein shall be construed as exempting businesses from payment of a license on the basis of a lack of physical location.

New Business Information

Every person who commences business on or after July 1st may pay one-half (1/2) the annual license for such business for that calendar year.

New Business Penalty: In the case of persons who began business on or after the first day of the calendar year, the license fee for such "new business" shall be increased by fifteen (15%) percent for the first fifteen (15) days they shall be delinquent, and shall be measured by an additional fifteen (15%) percent for a delinquency of forty-five (45) days or more.

Police Jurisdiction (PJ), Definition and Rate of

The area outside the incorporated municipality limits. Businesses located in the police jurisdiction are subject to purchase a business license per the municipality's ordinance at one half the normal rates if applicable. Those businesses located in this area may receive, but are not limited to, police, fire, safety, water, sewer, public health, safety, and protection from the municipality.

Penalty and Interest, Rate of

Failure to purchase a license can be punishable by a fine not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

All licenses not paid within thirty (30) days from the date they fall due (January 1st) will increase by a 15% penalty due February 1st plus interest at the current state interest rate. An additional 15% penalty will be due March 2nd plus interest at the current state interest rate per month thereafter.

New Business Penalty: In the case of persons who began business on or after the first day of the calendar year, the license fee for such "new business" shall be increased by fifteen (15%) percent for the first fifteen (15) days they shall be delinquent, and shall be measured by an additional fifteen (15%) percent for a delinquency of forty-five (45) days or more.

Posting of License

Every license shall be posted in a conspicuous place, where said business, trade or occupation is carried on, and the holder of the license shall immediately show same to the designee of the municipality upon being requested so to do.

Transfer of License information

No license shall be transferred except with the consent of the council or other governing body of the municipality or of the director of finance or other chief revenue officer or his or her designee, and no license shall be transferred to reflect a physical change of address of the taxpayer within the municipality more than once during a license year and never from one taxpayer to another. Provided that a mere change in the name or ownership of a taxpayer that is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other form of legal entity now or hereafter recognized by the laws of Alabama shall not constitute a transfer for purposes of this chapter, unless (1) the change requires the taxpayer to obtain a new federal employer identification number or Department of Revenue taxpayer identification number or (2), in the discretion of the municipality, the subject license is one for the sale of alcoholic beverages. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a municipality from requiring a new business license application and approval for an alcoholic beverage license.

Type of License

Gross-based licenses require the gross receipts to be provided. See Gross Receipts definition for more information. Unit-based licenses require the number of units (employees, vehicles, rooms, agents, days, etc.) to be provided. Flat-based fees have the rates indicated. Failure to provide the required information will delay the issuance of the license.

Zoning

If a business intends to maintain a physical location within the municipality, there are normally zoning and building code approvals required prior to the issuance of a license. In certain instances, a business may simply be required to register with the municipality to create a mechanism for the reporting and payment of any tax liabilities. Contact the municipality for any zoning, building code and/or tax liability requirements. The completion and submission of the form does not guarantee the approval or subsequent issuance of a license to do business. Any prerequisites for a particular type and location of the business must be satisfied prior to licensing.

Questions?

All questions regarding the business license renewal process should be directed to Avenu.

Website: www.avenuinsights.com
Email: businesslicensesupport@avenuinsights.com
Phone: 800.556.7274
Fax: 844.528.6529
Free, Easy Online Filing available at <https://rds.bizlicenseonline.com>.