

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

To: Pennsylvania Distillers Guild – Leadership and Member Distilleries
From: Anthony M. Brichta, Esq., General Counsel
Date: April 1, 2026
Re: Act 8 of 2026.

On March 27, 2026, Governor Shapiro signed into law [Act 8 of 2026](#) (“Act 8”). Act 8 has two (2) sections that are relevant to distilleries operating in Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia 250 Permits

First, Section 408.17 creates a new set of “Philadelphia 250 Permits” in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Any distillery or limited distillery¹ that is located in Philadelphia may apply to the PLCB for a “Philadelphia 250 Permit” **which shall be valid from June 11, 2026 to July 20, 2026 and allows the distillery or limited distillery an extra two-hour extension per day of operational privileges.** This timeframe coincides with the World Cup and other 250 celebrations and will allow distilleries and limited distilleries to stay open in Philadelphia until 2AM Mondays through Saturdays (to Sunday Morning) and to 1AM on Sundays (to Monday morning). Please note that PLCB Requirements mandate that not only are sales stopped at the appropriate time, but that the licensed premises cleared of patrons.

Note: sales of products for off-premises consumption do not change under a Philadelphia 250 Permit.

It is expected that the PLCB will issue further guidance regarding applying for the Philadelphia 250 Permits. There are several requirements for obtaining and using a Philadelphia 250 Permit:

- The application for the permit must be submitted 30 days before use;
- The application fee is \$500;
- Licensees must complete a program offered by the City of Philadelphia to provide training for nighttime safety;
- The permit must post a notice the application on the outside of the premises;

¹ Other types of licenses are also allowed to apply for the Philadelphia 250 Permits.

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- The PLCB may refuse to issue a permit if there are pending objections to the renewal of the license or if the licensee is subject to a Conditional Licensing Agreement (CLA) with the PLCB;

Distilleries of Historical Significance

Second, Act 8 amended Section 505.4(a) of the Liquor Code to 1) allows distilleries established prior to 1885 to obtain a distillery of historical significance license 2) remove a maximum production requirement, and 3) if applicable, exchange a distillery license for a distillery of historical significance license. Holders of a distillery of historical significance license are permitted the same rights as governed under a distillery license.

Guild Members may also contact Attorney Brichta with any questions or concerns regarding this matter or other legal issues that may affect member distilleries. (ambrichta@norris-law.com or 484-765-2256).