

BACKGROUND

Nuisance Bar Program:

- In 1990, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board established the nuisance bar program. The program is designed to review community complaints, as well as reports from local law enforcement and government when considering a license renewal.
- Hearings are conducted by a judge from the Office of Administrative Law, an independent arm of the PLCB.
- The PLCB does not enforce the liquor law. The Pennsylvania State Police's Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement enforces the laws.

Stop 'n' Go's:

A Stop 'n' Go shop refers to a take-out beer sales establishment, as opposed to a restaurant-type establishment that also sells food and provides seating.

The concern is that with these establishments also come loitering, underage drinking, late hours of operation and other unhealthy practices that can deteriorate the neighborhood's quality of life.

There's a new law that requires Philadelphia stop 'n' go's to apply for a special permit through city council. City council can shut down businesses that do not meet certain standards, and communities will be able to take their concerns about nuisance stop 'n' go's directly to council.



To file a confidential complaint,
contact the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement at:

1-800-932-0602

To access further information on nuisance bars
or stop 'n' go's, visit :

www.lcb.state.pa.us/plcb

lpo.kaf.0106

Nuisance Bars Stop & Go's Regulations and you...



What you need to know

What is a Nuisance Bar?

DEFINITION:

Any establishment in which people, such as employees, owners or patrons, conduct an activity that adversely affects the peace and safety of the surrounding community.

Such activities may include:

- Drug activity on the licensed premises
- Any liquor code violations resulting in a citation by the Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Liquor Enforcement, such as:
 - sales to a minor
 - sales to visibly intoxicated people
 - sales after hours
 - prostitution, lewd or immoral entertainment
 - loud music that can be heard from outside.

All establishments must obtain a license from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, which is subject to review and renewal. In order to get a license renewed, the establishments must be able to show that it has not abused the license privilege.

Licenses are renewable and subject to review by the Bureau of Licensing.



Document your complaints:

- Write down detailed descriptions of incidents and other illicit activities, and include the date and time when they happen.
- Take photographs or record video of illicit activities or physical evidence that indicate the presence of unlawful or harmful activities. This can include photos of drug paraphernalia, trash, bullet holes, vomit from drunken patrons, destruction of nearby property and so on.
- Obtain records from:
 - the local police district. The police keep and can retrieve computer records documenting calls to the police concerning the area near the nuisance location.
 - the PLCB and state police's Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement concerning complaints and investigations conducted about the licensed business, as well as letters of warning and any official actions taken against the establishment.
 - the local department of licenses and inspections on health and safety violations records.
- Keep records of community attempts to resolve the problem before resorting to legal action.

Remember! As private citizens, you should always exercise caution and only act as the "eyes and ears" for law enforcement. Do not attempt to conduct your own investigations, which may place you in physical danger.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Communities are encouraged to get involved and take back their neighborhoods, to create a safe and peaceful environment. Here's what you can do if you think a licensed establishment is causing problems in your community.

Contact various local and state agencies charged with compliance responsibilities, such as:

- Local health and fire departments, for issues like safety and occupancy violations.
- Local zoning boards, for zoning problems.
- The district attorney's office, for criminal offenses.
- The Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, for liquor law violations.
- The local police, for criminal violations.

Community leaders and neighborhood groups also can meet with the Bureau of Licensing to discuss complaints about nuisance operations in their neighborhood.

