



BUSINESS LICENSES

City of Camas - 2019

What is a Business License?

License to legally conduct business within the City.

RCW 35A.82.020 Code cities may “exercise the authority authorized by general law for any class of city to license and revoke the same for cause, to regulate, make inspections and to impose excises for regulation or revenue in regard to all places and kinds of business, production, commerce, entertainment, exhibition, and upon all occupations, trades and professions and any other kind of lawful activity...”

Any city may require a general business license for any person or company “engaging in business” within city limits. This includes businesses that are physically located within the city, as well as businesses that are physically located elsewhere but engage in business within the city.

Why a business license?

Cities have several reasons and approach business licenses with different purposes:

Monitoring
business activities
within the City

Regulating certain
types of business
activities to ensure
public safety and
code compliance

Generating
revenue

Analyzing and
cultivating
business growth

City of Camas Business License (Registration*)

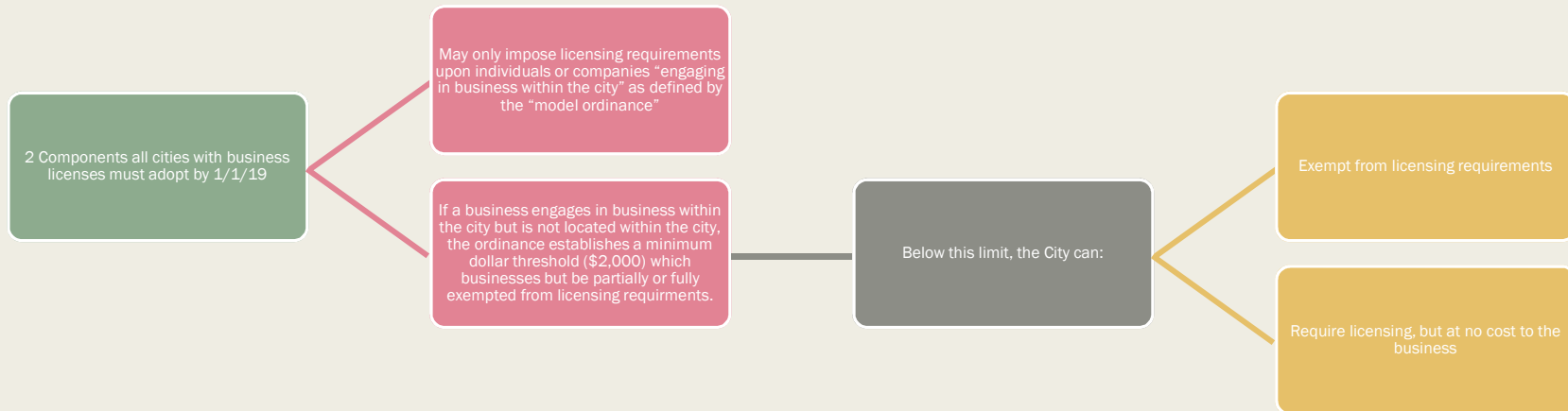
To allow the City to:

- *Determine who is conducting business*
- *What is the business*
- *How to contact the business owner*

BLS System provides efficiency

- *Businesses already interact with BLS*
- *Camas to partner with BLS*

EHB 2005 provided uniformity for business licenses statewide



What are the options?



- Business Licenses can include:
 - *Fees and thresholds (provided they comply with the model ordinance)*
 - *Approval process and conditions*
 - *License terms and expirations dates*
 - *Penalties*
 - *Suspension, revocation and appeals*

Some cities provide for exemptions for certain business types or require the license but do not charge a fee.

Examples include:

- Nonprofit and religious groups
- Minors engaged in babysitting, newspaper delivery, lemonade stands, lawn mowing, etc.
- Private ambulance operators
- Common carrier delivery of goods and services
- Farmers selling their own produce
- Businesses below a certain income threshold
- Businesses that only do casual or isolated sales

However, these individuals and businesses may still be subject to state business licensing requirements

Any exemptions?

What about additional fees to recoup costs?

Regulatory businesses which require additional regulation, oversight for code enforcement or public safety could have higher fees. Examples include:

- Door-to-door solicitors
- Fireworks stands
- Heavy manufacturing
- Short-term rentals
- Taxi-cabs

Some cities raise revenues by charging business license fees on a sliding scale based on criteria such as employees or number of employee hours worked or the square footage of the business.

New state law in RCW 35.90, requires all cities to partner with BLS or FileLocal over the next few years.

Deadlines include:

License fees and thresholds are established by the City

BLS
12/31/2022

FileLocal
7/1/2020

How to issue business license?

Next Steps

