



WEST VIRGINIA

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**

OUR MISSION

The mission of the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration is to regulate, enforce, control the sales, distribution, transportation, storage, and consumption of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer as mandated by the West Virginia Liquor Control and Nonintoxicating Beer Act.

OUR PURPOSE

The West Virginia Legislature created the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control in 1935. The WVABCA was organized to give effect to the mandate of the people expressed in the repeal of the state prohibition amendment, and to assure the greatest degree of freedom that is consistent with the health, safety, and good morals of the people of West Virginia.

**Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025
July 1, 2024 — June 30, 2025**

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WEST VIRGINIA
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
FREDRIC L. WOOTON, COMMISSIONER

December 29, 2025

The Honorable Patrick Morrissey, Governor
Building 1, Capital Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: WVABCA 2025 Fiscal Year Annual Report

Dear Governor Morrissey:

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration is pleased to submit the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025, in compliance with W.Va. Code §60-2-11(9).

Sincerely,

Fredric L. Wooton
Commissioner

cc: Eric Nelson, Jr., Cabinet Secretary, Department of Revenue
Sara Price, Executive Director, Library Commission

FLW/cjc



A Message from Fredric L. Wooton, Commissioner

Another year in the books, the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) is pleased to present its Annual Report for FY 2025. This report will provide financial statements, departmental updates and useful maps (retail liquor outlets, distributors, wineries, etc.) for the alcohol beverage industry in West Virginia.

Two main bills passed in the 2025 Legislative Session affecting the WVABCA and both were effective July 11, 2025. Highlights of House Bill 2054 include more flexibility in the PODA (Private Outdoor Designated Area) with a S4N PODA permit for charitable entities, amended liquor sampling requirements to remove the three sample limit and allow samples not exceeding up to six ounces/day in some instances. The bill also permitted to-go cocktails/wine in a sealed craft cocktail or wine growler to be sold to persons who have dined and consumed alcohol in the establishment. The bill also revised the alcohol by volume (ABV) percentage for fortified wine to 24%. Second, House Bill 2511 authorized a fraternal benefit society, a domestic fraternal society, a veteran's organization or a volunteer fire department to conduct approved bingos and raffles with alcohol sales, upon obtaining an alcohol license from the WVABCA.

West Virginia is witnessing an economic boom in the tourism industry and much of this activity can be linked to businesses that hold a WVABCA license. The alcohol industry in West Virginia continues to expand to new venues and the staff at the WVABCA are up to the challenge to assisting new applicants and existing licenses. Education for our licensees and their staff is a vital first step in ensuring compliance and protecting the public. This report highlights our education efforts such as the new server/seller *Best Practices Carding Video*. We will also discuss new enforcement strategies designed to deal with fake IDs. In addition, we will provide an update on the multi-agency approach that is addressing the emerging Delta 8, hemp and kratom industries.

Finally, our innovative grant funded programs designed to prevent underage drinking and foster collaboration with other key stakeholders will be highlighted.

I hope you have the opportunity to read the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report as it will provide much greater details about the exciting work at the WVABCA.

Best Wishes,

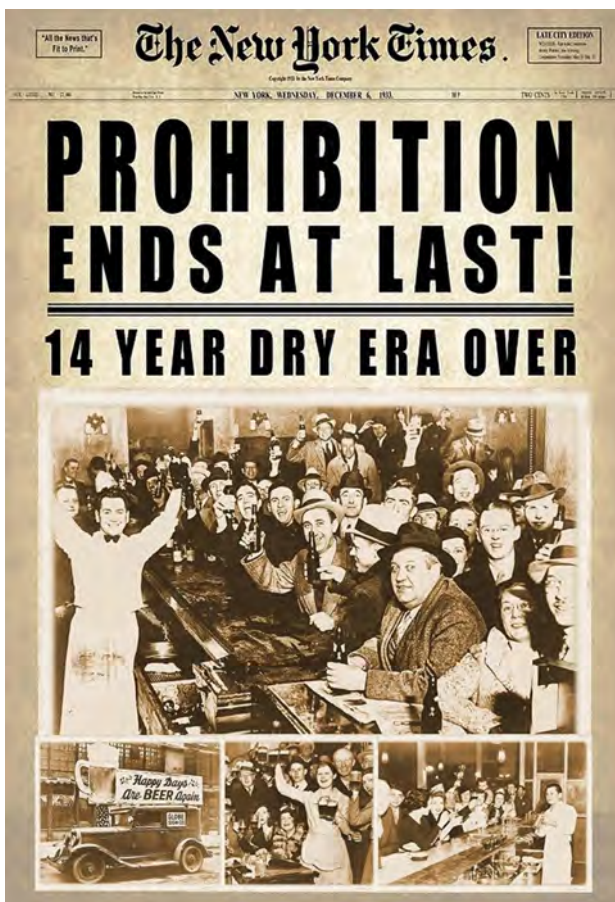
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. L. Wooton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name "Fredric L. Wooton" which is faintly visible in the background.

WVABCA HISTORY



This year, 2025, marks the 90th anniversary of the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA).

The passage and adoption of the 21st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution repealed the Volstead Act (Prohibition) and charged states with the responsibility to regulate the commerce of the alcohol beverage industry. The West Virginia Legislature created the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Commission ("**WVABCC**") in 1935 (See W.Va. Const. Art. IV §46 and W.Va. Code §60-1-1 et seq.)



A three-tier system of distribution was established in West Virginia. This distribution format regulates the three tiers: manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer. Laws, rules and regulations provide protection for each tier. Fairness and equality are the overriding principles achieved by eliminating the connection between the tiers. In 1937, the legal term "nonintoxicating beer" was enacted which would allow for the product to be consumed in public. At conception, the authority to regulate beer was the responsibility of the State Tax Commissioner. In 1945, the West Virginia Nonintoxicating Beer Commission was established to regulate and enforce beer laws. During the WVABCC's first 56 years of existence, the WVABCC functioned as the exclusive wholesaler and retailer of liquor in West Virginia; non-fortified wines were "privatized" in 1981.

The Nonintoxicating Beer Commission was a stand-alone independent agency until it merged with the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Commission in 1990 to form a united West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration ("**WVABCA**") with a single Commissioner over all aspects of the alcohol industry in West Virginia.



For additional history and highlights, please scan the QR Code above or visit the WV ABCA website at abca.wv.gov

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 MANAGEMENT COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEAR ANALYSIS
 June 30, 2025, 2024 and 2023

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current assets	\$ 24,701,810	\$ 25,826,855	\$ 23,470,426
Capital assets, net	2,230,513	2,312,035	2,486,837
Notes and accrued interest receivable	98,757	834,921	1,571,086
Restricted assets	299,194	113,447	-
Total assets	<u>27,330,274</u>	<u>29,087,258</u>	<u>27,528,349</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	<u>784,377</u>	<u>499,059</u>	<u>810,860</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 4,842,359	\$ 4,413,651	\$ 5,321,698
Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 325,172</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,842,359</u>	<u>4,413,651</u>	<u>5,646,870</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>432,577</u>	<u>181,088</u>	<u>401,649</u>
Net position, net investment in capital assets	2,230,513	2,312,035	2,486,837
Net position, restricted by enabling legislation	98,757	834,921	1,571,086
Net position, restricted by pension and OPEB	299,194	113,447	-
Net position, unrestricted net position	<u>20,211,251</u>	<u>21,731,175</u>	<u>18,232,767</u>
Total net position	<u>22,839,715</u>	<u>24,991,578</u>	<u>22,290,690</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 MANAGEMENT COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEAR ANALYSIS
 Years Ended June 30, 2025, 2024 and 2023

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sales	\$ 131,204,004	\$ 135,229,526	\$ 136,005,376
Licenses, permits and fees	5,541,865	5,328,925	4,760,681
Administrative hearing fines	<u>113,600</u>	<u>113,700</u>	<u>174,825</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>136,859,469</u>	<u>140,672,151</u>	<u>140,940,882</u>
Cost of sales	99,381,103	101,909,002	102,867,492
General and administrative	6,207,893	5,664,383	5,189,202
Depreciation	<u>241,934</u>	<u>238,866</u>	<u>232,763</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>105,830,930</u>	<u>107,812,251</u>	<u>108,289,457</u>
Operating income	31,028,539	32,859,900	32,651,425
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):			
Retail liquor license renewal fee	-	-	108,400
Interest income	-	-	-
Grants	134,027	139,877	128,024
Other	39,172	(66,022)	76,821
Loss of disposal of assets	-	-	-
Receipts (Transfers in) from primary government	-	-	-
Statutory distributions	<u>(33,353,601)</u>	<u>(30,232,867)</u>	<u>(33,245,403)</u>
	<u>(33,180,402)</u>	<u>(30,159,012)</u>	<u>(32,932,158)</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ (2,151,863)</u>	<u>\$ 2,700,888</u>	<u>\$ (280,733)</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
Year Ended June 30, 2025

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Cash received from customers and users	\$ 137,019,870
Cash paid to employees	(5,034,662)
Cash paid to suppliers	<u>(100,302,611)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>31,682,597</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities	
Receipts on nonoperating grants	134,027
Receipts from notes receivable and accrued interest receivable	736,164
Proceeds from liquor license renewals	-
Payments to primary government	<u>(33,353,601)</u>
Net cash used by noncapital financial activities	<u>(32,483,410)</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:	
Purchases of capital assets	<u>(160,412)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(961,225)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>25,059,685</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 24,098,460</u>
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information	
Non-cash special funding contribution related to OPEB	<u>\$ 39,172</u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Operating income	\$ 31,028,539
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	241,934
Special Funding contribution related to OPEB	39,172
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Decrease in accounts receivable	160,401
Decrease in deferred outflows of resources	(285,318)
(Increase) Decrease in inventory	3,419
Increase in net pension and net OPEB liabilities	(185,747)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expense	423,117
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows of resources	251,489
Decrease in accrued annual leave	<u>5,591</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 31,682,597</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
Year Ended June 30, 2025

Operating revenues:	
Sales	\$ 131,204,004
Licenses, permits and fees	5,541,865
Administrative hearing fines	<u>113,600</u>
	<u>136,859,469</u>
Operating expenses:	
Cost of sales	99,381,103
General and administrative	6,207,893
Depreciation	<u>241,934</u>
	<u>105,830,930</u>
Operating income	31,028,539
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):	
Retail liquor license renewal - financing option	-
Retail liquor license renewal	-
Interest income	-
Grants	134,027
Loss of disposal of assets	-
Other (Special funding contributions related to OPEB)	39,172
Statutory distributions	<u>(33,353,601)</u>
	<u>(33,180,402)</u>
Change in net position	(2,151,863)
Net position, beginning of year	24,991,578
Net position, end of year	<u>\$ 22,839,715</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$ 22,839,715</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION (continued)
 Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Administrative / Liquor</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>#7352</u>	<u>Enforcement</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>#7356</u>
Operating revenues:		
Sales	\$ 131,204,004	\$ -
Licenses, permits and fees	3,759,950	658,555
Administrative hearing fines	-	113,600
Total revenues	<u>134,963,954</u>	<u>772,155</u>
Operating expenses:		
Cost of sales	99,136,562	-
General and administrative	5,593,320	190,216
Depreciation	<u>134,086</u>	<u>10,778</u>
	<u>104,863,968</u>	<u>200,994</u>
Operating income	30,099,986	571,161
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Grants	79,027	-
Retail liquor license renewal - financing option	-	-
Retail liquor license renewal	-	-
Interest income	-	-
Other	36,740	-
Statutory distributions	<u>(33,247,121)</u>	<u>(100,180)</u>
	<u>(33,131,354)</u>	<u>(100,180)</u>
Change in net position	(3,031,368)	470,981
Net position, beginning of year	<u>17,200,504</u>	<u>318,983</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$ 14,169,136</u>	<u>\$ 789,964</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
 Year Ended June 30, 2025

<u>Wine Fund #7351</u>	<u>Grants / Gift #7357</u>	<u>Beer Operations #7358</u>	<u>Wine & Liquor Operations Fund #7359</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 131,204,004
569,100	36,060	290,900	227,300	5,541,865
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,600</u>
<u>569,100</u>	<u>36,060</u>	<u>290,900</u>	<u>227,300</u>	<u>136,859,469</u>
-	45	-	244,496	99,381,103
72,144	29,274	320,833	2,106	6,207,893
<u>51,695</u>	<u>16,862</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>28,301</u>	<u>241,934</u>
<u>123,839</u>	<u>46,181</u>	<u>321,045</u>	<u>274,903</u>	<u>105,830,930</u>
445,261	(10,121)	(30,145)	(47,603)	31,028,539
-	55,000	-	-	134,027
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
607	-	1,825	-	39,172
<u>(6,300)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(33,353,601)</u>
<u>(5,693)</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>1,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(33,180,402)</u>
439,568	44,879	(28,320)	(47,603)	(2,151,863)
<u>5,457,820</u>	<u>183,199</u>	<u>721,570</u>	<u>1,109,502</u>	<u>24,991,578</u>
<u>\$ 5,897,388</u>	<u>\$ 228,078</u>	<u>\$ 693,250</u>	<u>\$ 1,061,899</u>	<u>\$ 22,839,715</u>

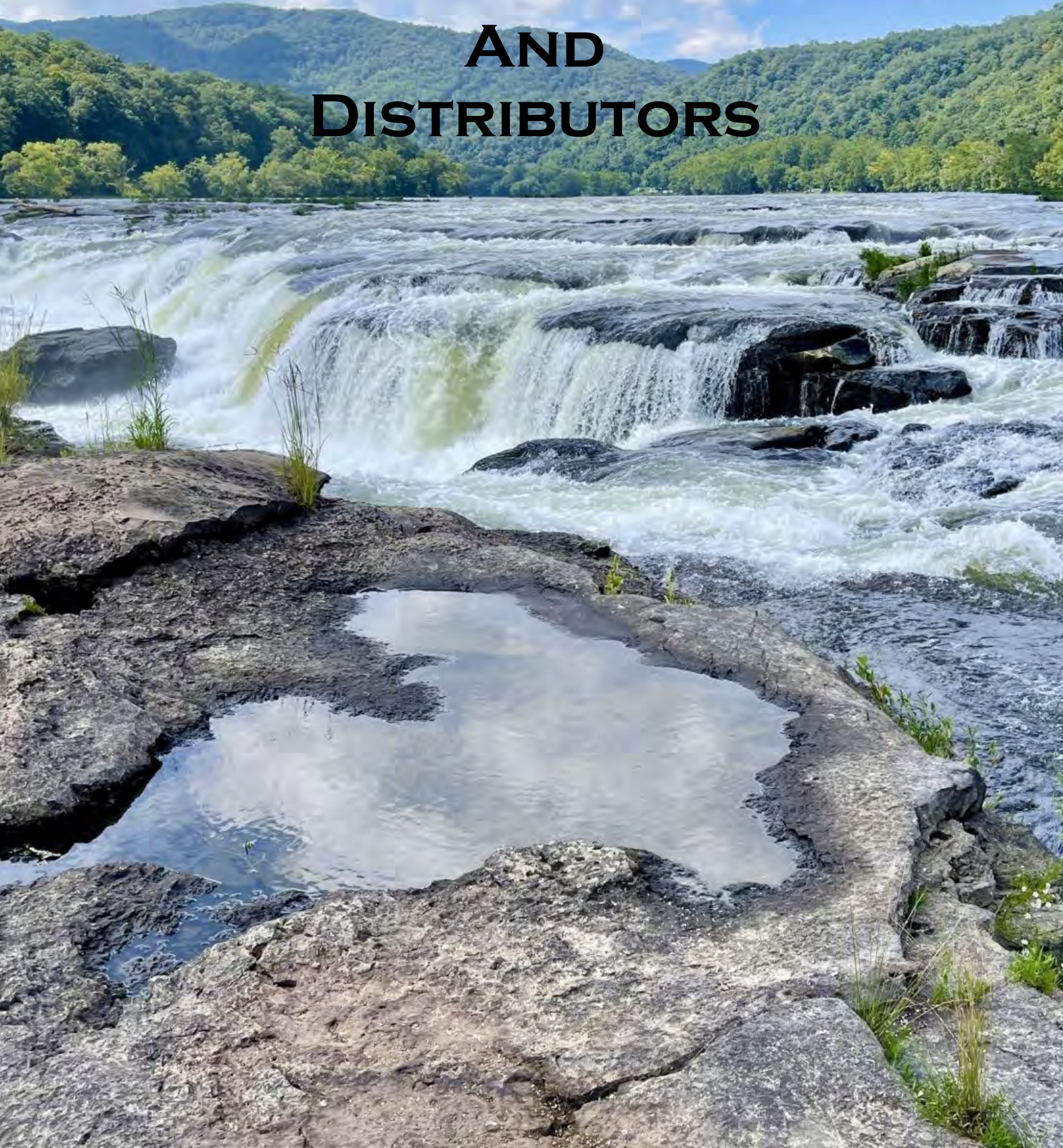
WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
 June 30, 2025

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Administrative /</u> <u>Liquor Fund</u> <u>#7352</u>	<u>Enforcement</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>#7356</u>
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 16,135,658	\$ 762,657
Inventory	57,073	-
Accounts Receivable	546,277	-
Notes receivable - current, restricted	98,060	-
Accrued interest - current, restricted	<u>697</u>	<u>-</u>
Total current assets	<u>16,837,765</u>	<u>762,657</u>
Noncurrent assets:		
Notes receivable - noncurrent, restricted	0	-
Accrued interest - noncurrent, restricted	0	-
Capital assets, net	1,527,914	41,891
Restricted Assets:		
Restricted net OPEB asset	12,945	-
Restricted net pension asset	<u>270,552</u>	<u>-</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>1,811,411</u>	<u>41,891</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 18,649,176</u>	<u>\$ 804,548</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred outflows from OPEB and pension amounts	<u>\$ 746,070</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

WEST VIRGINIA ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (continued)
 June 30, 2025

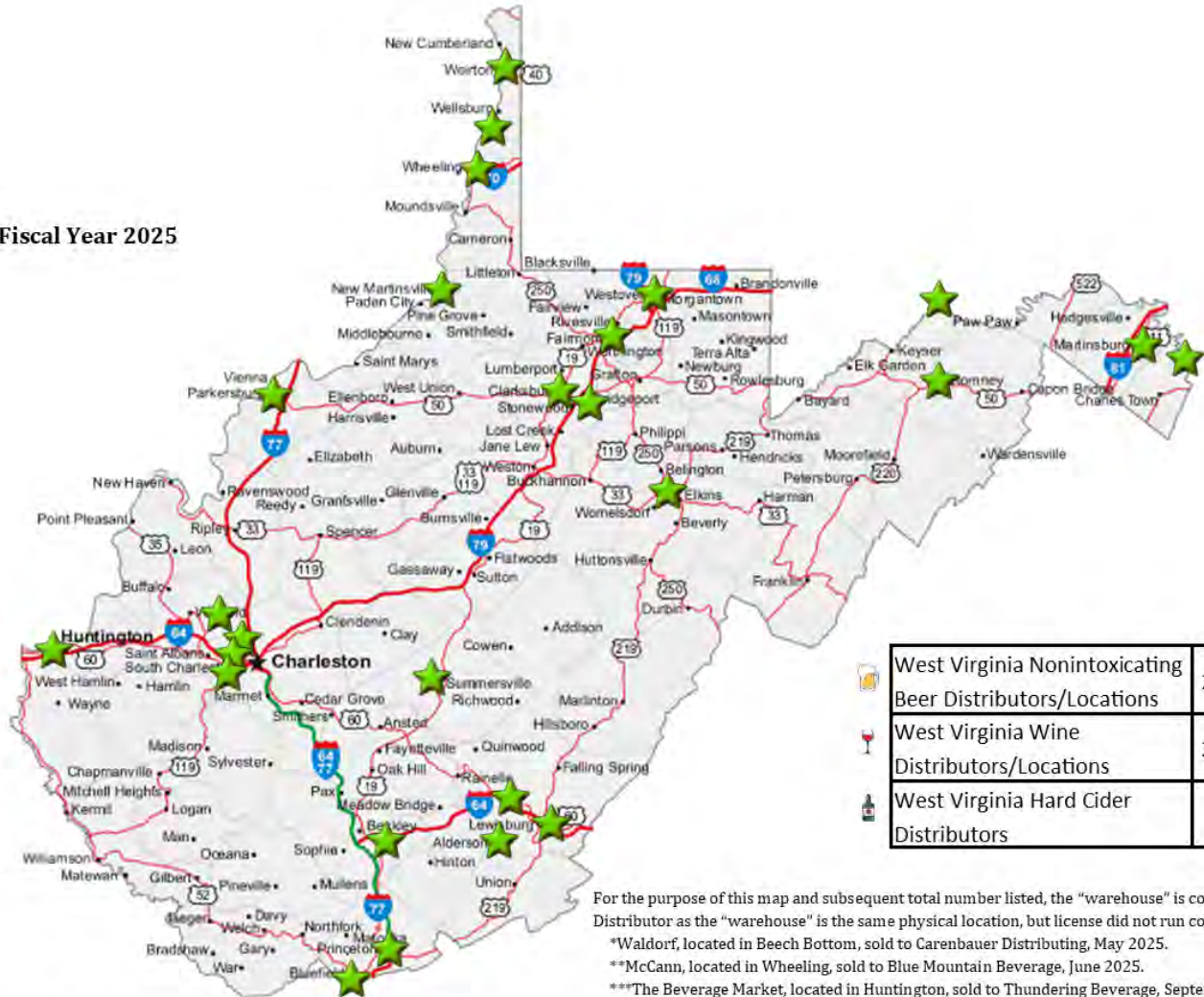
<u>Wine Fund #7351</u>	<u>Grants / Gift #7357</u>	<u>Beer Operations Fund #7358</u>	<u>Wine & Liquor Operations Fund #7359</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ 5,636,599	\$ 156,419	\$ 673,770	\$ 733,357	\$ 24,098,460
-	-	-	-	\$ 57,073
-	-	-	-	\$ 546,277
-	-	-	-	\$ 98,060
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 697</u>
<u>5,636,599</u>	<u>156,419</u>	<u>673,770</u>	<u>733,357</u>	<u>24,800,567</u>
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
258,175	71,659	2,332	328,542	2,230,513
214	-	643	-	13,802
<u>3,653</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>285,392</u>
<u>262,042</u>	<u>71,659</u>	<u>14,162</u>	<u>328,542</u>	<u>2,529,707</u>
<u>\$ 5,898,641</u>	<u>\$ 228,078</u>	<u>\$ 687,932</u>	<u>\$ 1,061,899</u>	<u>\$ 27,330,274</u>
<u>\$ 6,960</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 31,347</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 784,377</u>

**WEST VIRGINIA
SPIRITS, WINE, BEER
MANUFACTURERS
AND
DISTRIBUTORS**







WEST VIRGINIA DISTRIBUTORS OF BEER, WINE, AND HARD CIDER



Fiscal Year 2025




American Beer

Smoot, WV  
 Princeton, WV  


Beverage Distributors

Clarksburg, WV  

Blue Mountain Beverage



**Wheeling, WV 

Blue Ridge Beverage


Morgantown, WV 

Carenbauer Distributing


*Beech Bottom, WV

Wheeling, WV  



Country Vintner of WV

Lewisburg, WV 



French Wine Connection

Alderson, WV 



J.C. Mensore Distributor

New Martinsville, WV  



Jefferson Distributing

Martinsburg, WV  



Jo's Globe

Morgantown, WV  



Martin Distributing

Martinsburg, WV  



McCann Distributing

**Wheeling, WV  



Mercer Wholesale

Bluefield, WV  



Mona Supply



Morgantown, WV  



Mountain Eagle



Beaver, WV  

Mountain State Beverage



Charleston, WV  



Morgantown, WV  



Romney, WV  

Summersville, WV  



North Central Distributors



Bridgeport, WV  

Dunbar, WV  



Shepherdstown, WV  

Northern Eagle



Elkins, WV  

Romney, WV  



Ralph's Beer

Morgantown, WV  



Reid's Distributor



Martinsburg, WV  

Ridgeley Distributors


Ridgeley, WV  

Spriggs Distributing



Parkersburg, WV  



South Charleston, WV  

State Distributing



Clarksburg, WV 

The Beverage Market (dba Capitol Beverage)



Charleston, WV  

***Huntington, WV  

Thundering Beverage

***Huntington, WV  

Tygart Valley Distributors

Elkins, WV  



Valley Dist. Co. of Fairmont

Fairmont, WV  

Waldorf Distributing

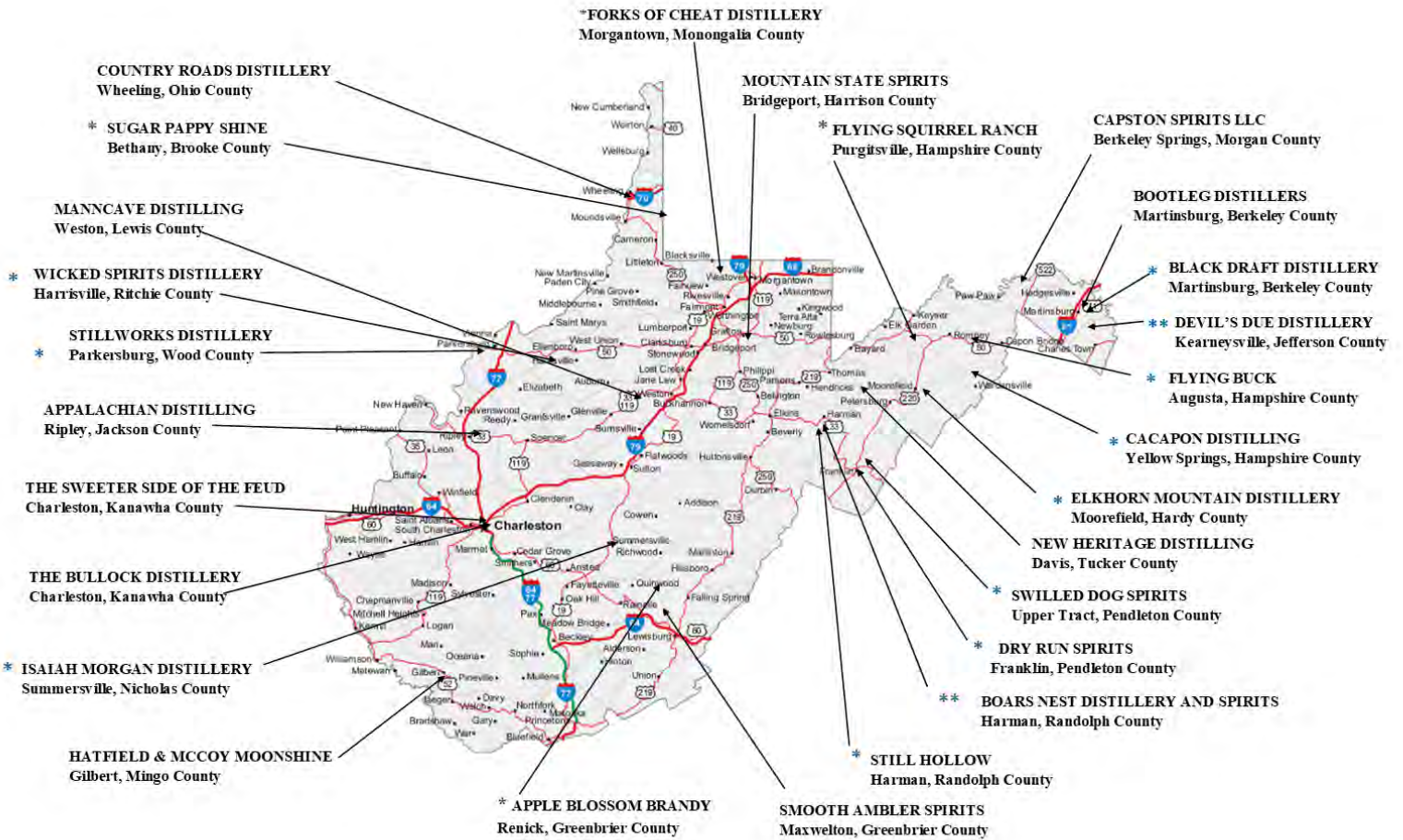
*Beech Bottom, WV  

Wine & Beverage Merchants

Weirton, WV  

WEST VIRGINIA DISTILLERIES, MINI-DISTILLERIES & MICRO-DISTILLERIES

* Denotes Mini-Distillery
** Denotes Micro Distillery



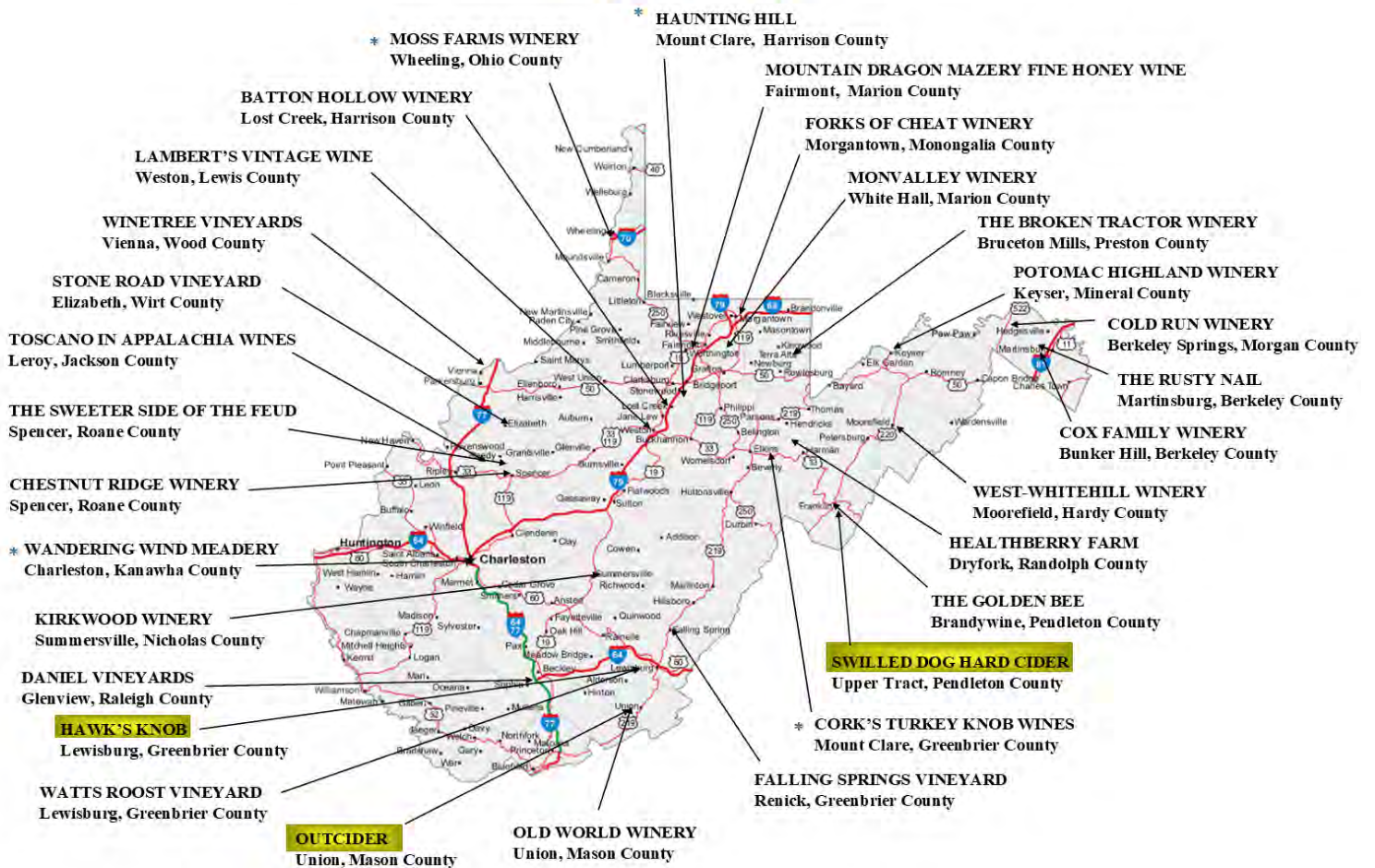
Fiscal Year 2025

West Virginia Distilleries	12
West Virginia Mini-Distilleries	13
West Virginia Micro-Distilleries	2

WEST VIRGINIA WINERIES & WEST VIRGINIA FARM WINERIES

* Denotes Winery

Denotes Cider Producer

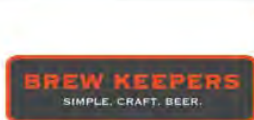


Fiscal Year 2025

West Virginia Wineries	4
West Virginia Farm Wineries (Includes Cideries)	26

WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENT BREWERS

* Denotes No Brew Pub



Wheeling, WV



Morgantown, WV



Bruceton Mills, WV



Terra Alta, WV



Keyser, WV



Berkeley Springs, WV



Rivesville, WV



Parkersburg, WV



Clendenin, WV



Charleston, WV



The Peddler
Huntington, WV



Barboursville, WV



Princeton, WV



Ghent, WV



White Sulphur Springs, WV



Maxwelton, WV



Fayetteville, WV



Hico, WV



Summersville, WV



West Virginia Resident Brewers 34

Fiscal Year 2025



Martinsburg, WV



Charles Town, WV



Shepherdstown, WV



Rippon, WV



Davis, WV



Thomas, WV



Elkins, WV



Snowshoe, WV



Abolitionist Ale Works	Charles Town	Freefolk Brewery	Hico
Amani Brewing	Martinsburg	Gad Dam Brewing	Summersville
Bad Shepherd Beer Co.	Charleston	Greenbrier Valley Brewing	Maxwelton
Banning's	Summersville	High Ground Brewing	Terra Alta
Bavarian Brothers Brewing	Shepherdstown	Köerber Beer Company	Barboursville
Berkeley Springs Brewing	Berkeley Springs	Mountain State Brewing	Thomas
Big Timber Brewing	Elkins	Neighborhood Kombuchery	Morgantown
Boc-Hord Brewery & Bakehouse	Princeton	North Branch Brewing	Keyser
Brew Keepers	Wheeling	North End Brewing Co.	Parkersburg
Bridge Brew Works	Fayetteville	Old Spruce Brewing	Snowshoe
Cacapon Mountain Brewing	Berkeley Springs	Parkersburg Brewing Co.	Parkersburg
Charleston Nano-Brewery	Charleston	Peddler (The)	Huntington
Chestnut Brew Works	Morgantown	Rippon Brewing Company	Rippon
Clendenin Brewing	Clendenin	Screech Owl	Bruceton Mills
Country Roads Beer Co.	White Sulphur Springs	Short Story Brewing	Rivesville
Fife Street Brewing	Charleston	Stumptown Ales	Davis
Fox Hops Brewing	Elkins	Weathered Ground	Ghent

ENFORCEMENT



The WVABCA Enforcement Division plays a crucial role in protecting the public. Enforcement agents and regional supervisors live and work in the communities they serve and are committed to enforcing the W. Va. State Code and Legislative Rules as they relate to the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption, and possession of alcoholic beverages. The enforcement staff performs a variety of duties for new applications and existing licenses.

The general public often associates the work of the WVABCA as only enforcement in nature; however, this does not accurately portray the duties of the enforcement division and the overall mission of the WVABCA. Educating new applicants and existing licensees is an ongoing activity. New applicants work with the WVABCA Licensing Division to obtain licenses, permits, and services to fit a wide range of needs. The enforcement division staff visit the proposed premises and perform an initial inspection. Information within the license application is reviewed and questions are asked and answered by both parties. Agents provide a variety of educational tools such as: the hours of operation form, BAC chart, carding poster (see below) and the new *Best Practices Carding Video* for both on-premises and off-premises licensees.



WVABCA licensed establishments receive two routine inspections every year and in FY25 the inspection rate was 99%. In addition, the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and the Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention (CDDP) provided grant funding to assist with underage and fake ID compliance activities.

Back to School Fake ID Campaign

The WVABCA obtained grant funding from the GHSP to launch a Back to School Fake ID Campaign to address college students' use of fraudulent IDs to purchase alcohol. The campaign involved the WVABCA collaborating with select Class B off-premises licensees and law enforcement agencies. This partnership aimed to prevent the use of illegal IDs and to improve the training of cashiers in the carding process. The WVABCA also utilized its existing ID Carding Poster for this effort.

A key objective of the campaign is to hold the individual youth accountable for using an illegal ID, rather than fining the business. Law enforcement has the authority to confiscate the fraudulent ID and issue a uniform citation. Operations for this campaign were scheduled for the fall of 2025 in both Morgantown and Huntington. The results and impact of these operations will be included in the FY 2026 Annual Report.



Who regulates vape shops in West Virginia? Turns out, several state agencies

by GINA MARINI | Wed, May 14, 2025 at 8:56 PM
Updated Thu, May 15, 2025 at 7:54 AM

WEST VIRGINIA (WCHS) — If you drive through the Mountain State, it seems like vape shops are popping up everywhere. In Kanawha City alone, there are several.

Eyewitness News wanted to find out who regulates the shops and the items they carry; it turns out, several state agencies are involved.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture issues the licenses and approves of the products to be registered in the state of West Virginia, the West Virginia Tax Department ensures that all taxes are properly collected on these products and the West Virginia ABCA (Alcohol Beverage Control Administration) ensures compliance that these products do not get into the hands of individuals under the age of 21 years," Fred Wooton, commissioner of the WVABCA, said.

Eyewitness News sat down with Wooton to learn more about the departments' role with regulating vape shops. "We were mandated by the West Virginia Legislature to do the enforcement part of the Delta-8, Kratom and hemp in West Virginia," Wooton said.

Wooton said two bills were passed over the last two years that helped to strengthen regulations on vape shops. One of those bills that passed the Senate last year was Senate Bill 679.

Following the passage of SB 679, the WVABCA, WV Tax Department and WV Department of Agriculture established a framework for the regulation and enforcement of hemp and kratom products by develop-

ing policies, procedures and training programs for agency employees. This inter-agency collaboration delivered key achievements throughout FY25 by building on the initial enforcement activities reported in the previous *WVABCA FY 2024 Annual Report*.



Enforcement activities in 2025 included compliance checks conducted at 208 establishments across 22 West Virginia counties. These compliance checks resulted in 42 underage purchases, 112 paraphernalia purchases, 20 arrests, and 22 search warrants served.

The WVABCA Enforcement Division participated in a statewide training conference. Topics included Legislation and Rules, alcohol industry research, development, and trends. The WVABCA partnered with the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) and the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) to provide accredited and expert training opportunities. *(see PEEP Conference page 28)*

The NLLEA also provided training on Fake IDs and Detection Methods. Additional training was provided by the West Virginia Fusion Center who covered Gangs and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. The GHSP and Huntington Police Department covered Increases in Drugged Driving and Fatalities in West Virginia. Finally, the West Virginia State Police provided a training class on Hemp and Kratom.



GRANTS AND EDUCATION

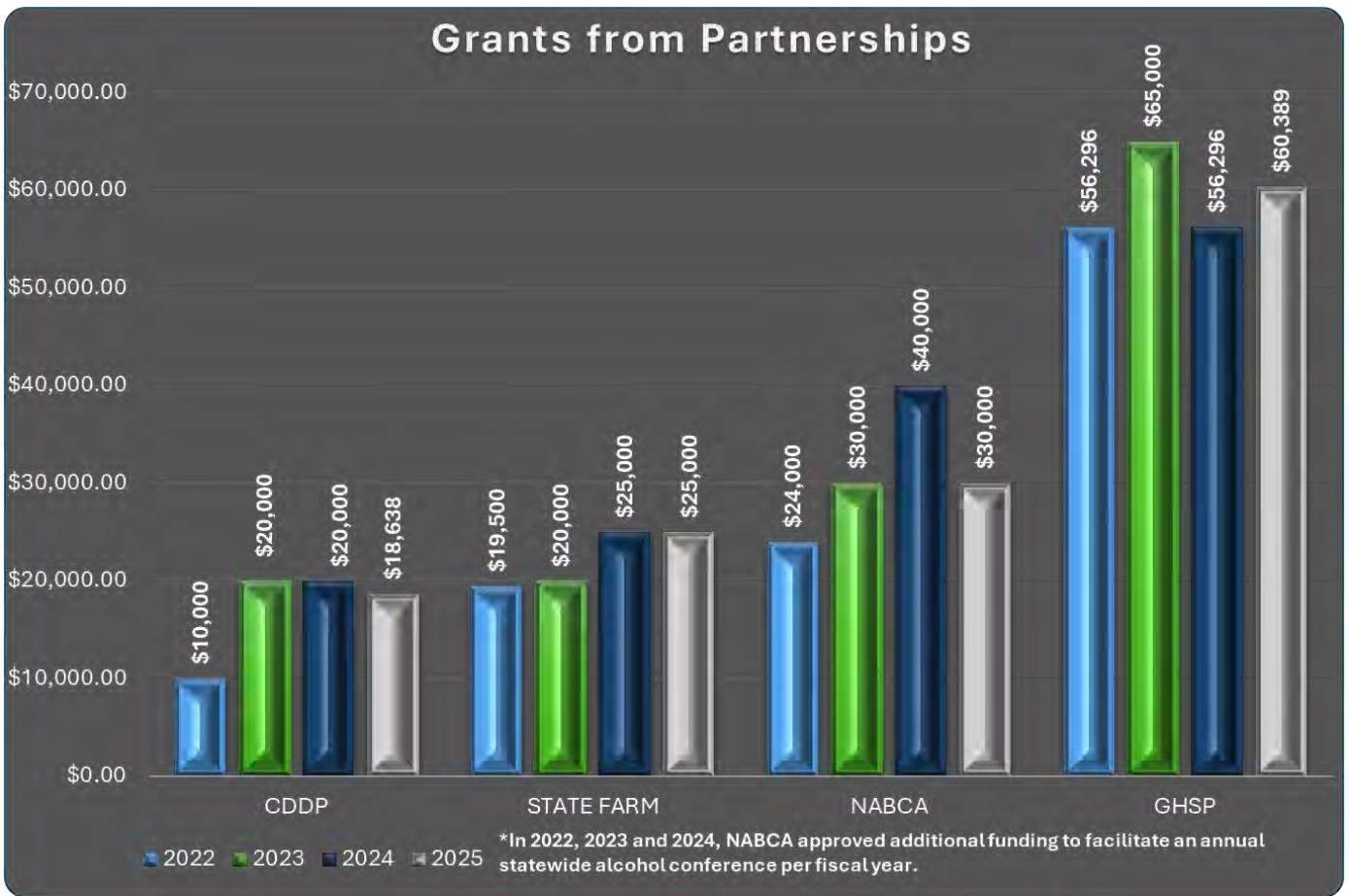




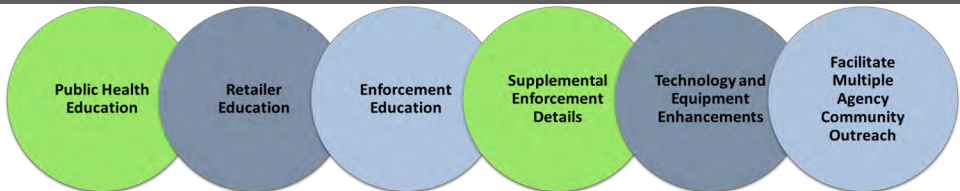
In FY25, the WVABCA received \$134,027 in grant and award funding from four sources which do not require matching funds.

The National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) provided an education award for \$10,000 to fund the annual statewide enforcement training. The NABCA also provided a supplemental award of \$20,000 to help fund the "NO" School Spirits PSA contest. A grant from State Farm® for \$25,000 was received and used to support the DUI Simulator program and the "NO" School Spirits PSA contest. (Note: Funding and events may cross fiscal years.)

The West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) provided \$60,389 in grant funding which was used to perform various enforcement division activities such as compliance checks. Grant funding in the amount of \$18,638 was received from the Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention (CDDP) to carry out additional enforcement activities.



Grant Funding Activities



The 12th annual “NO” School Spirits PSA (public service announcement) Contest for the 2024-2025 academic school year was held and open to all middle school and high school students who attend public or private schools in West Virginia.

The WVABCA received 57 entries from nearly 350 students attending 29 schools. Students competed for \$10,000 in cash prizes. The prize money was provided by a grant from State Farm® and had to be used for a school event and/or school equipment.

The first-place winning entry was edited for placement on television and social media during prom and graduation season. A 30-second radio spot was also created based upon the video entry and was aired locally in the winning school’s media market. A grant from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) allowed for the placement of this important health and safety message on social media and traditional news outlets.



Point Pleasant High School 1st Place Winner \$5,000 Prize



Last Year’s First Place Winner

Twelve Year Program Highlight 2013—2025 \$96,800 in Prize Money

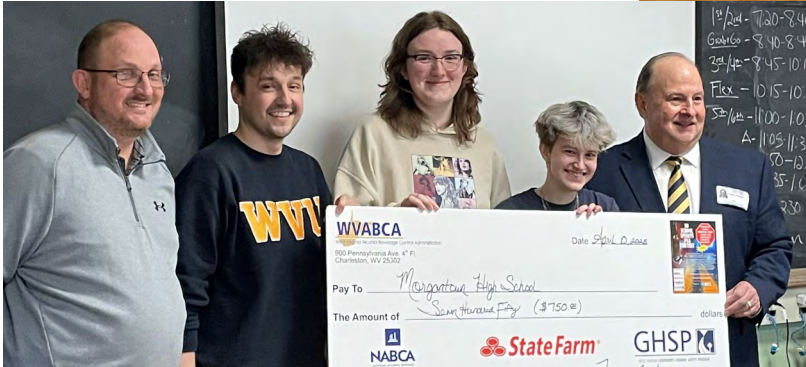
2023 -2024 Shady Spring High School

Assemblies to honor the winning students and schools were held with special guests and the media to present the monetary awards and individual prizes. Students also received a personalized *Certificate of Recognition* from West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey and an individual letter of commendation from WVABCA Commissioner Fred Wooton.



Wheeling Central Catholic High School
2nd Place Winner
\$2,500 Prize

Wirt County High School
3rd Place Winner
\$1,000 Prize

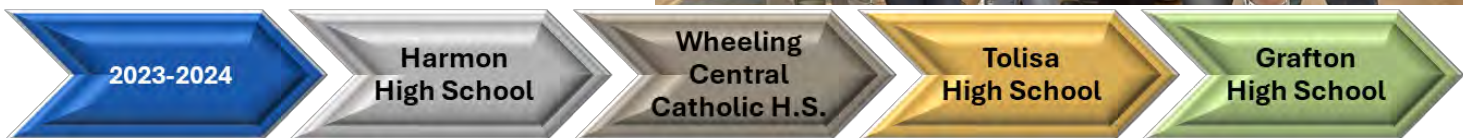


Morgantown High School
4th Place Winner
\$750 Prize

Robert L. Bland Middle School
5th Place Winner
\$750 Prize



Last Year's Winners



Conferences

Funding from NABCA allowed the WVABCA to work with Community Connections Inc. to deliver the 4th annual WVABCA Prevention, Enforcement, Education, and Policy (PEEP) Conference. WVABCA enforcement agents were joined by law enforcement, educators, school prevention resource officers, mental health professionals, social workers, addictions counselors, community advocates, and members from higher education who deal with campus wellness issues.

The PEEP conference had a special emphasis on alcohol related topics, but also addressed other legal and illegal substances. A general session keynote address provided by the NLLEA was on the topic of *Understanding the Role of Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement (ARE) in Order to Form Community Partnerships*.

The PEEP conference had a prevention track and an enforcement track. The prevention track was developed with the assistance of the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health and prevention specialists from across the state. Topics included *Beneficial Strategies for Prevention* and a regional panel to highlight best practices from the "Prevention Lead Organization-PLO". Highlights for the enforcement track can be found in the enforcement tab (page 23).



OCT 31ST 2024

PEEP2024
WVABCA CONFERENCE
Carolan Valley WV

ONE DAY
-
ENHANCED
TRAINING
-
PROFESSIONAL
NETWORKING

PREVENTION - ENFORCEMENT - EDUCATION - POLICY

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRACK
MEET WITH THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO LEARN ABOUT DRUG & ALCOHOL DETECTION, COMMUNITY POLICING, AND MORE.

PREVENTION TRACK
LEARN FROM PREVENTION EXPERTS ABOUT COMMUNITY ADVOCACY, THE IMPORTANCE OF COALITION WORK, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, AND CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION.

REGISTRATION OPEN!
WVPEEPCONFERENCE.COM
SUBSCRIBE BELOW TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH DETAILS!
CONTINUING EDUCATION PENDING

WVABCA
West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration

NABCA
National Alcohol Beverage Control Association

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, INC.
BUILDING STRONGER HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

West Virginia Initiative to Advance Healthy Campus Communities (WVCIA) Summit

The WVCIA's bi-annual Summit was held on March 28, 2025, at WV State University. The event brought together a variety of key stakeholders, including college and university presidents, administrators in student and campus life, mental health specialists from public and private institutions of higher learning. In addition, Community and Technical Colleges joined law enforcement and other state agencies for

this one-day event. Attendees reaffirmed their dedication to protecting and improving the lives of college students and their communities by participating in a Presidential Pact signing ceremony. The Summit provided two specialized training tracts. (Note: The WVABCA played a vital role in the establishment of the WVCIA dating back to 2002.)



Summer Safety

From hiking to biking, camping to climbing, on a boat or ATV, safety first is the message from the WVABCA, WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), and the WV Fire Commission Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The unified effort focused on educating the public about the dangers of misusing alcohol in the summer. Hot temperatures combined with alcohol can quickly lead to dehydration and a faster rise in Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) levels. This increases the risk of serious health issues like heat exhaustion, heat stroke, or even death.

Furthermore, alcohol consumption impairs judgement, slows reaction time, and causes a loss of coordination, all of which can negatively impact participation in outdoor activities.

To reach the public, the agencies used a combination of traditional media (television, print, and radio) and social media. Complementing the outreach, the WVDNR conducted various enforcement activities focused on boater and waterway safety, while the State Fire Marshal's Office worked to prevent accidents related to fireworks and cookouts.



Best Practices Carding Video

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) launched a new educational *Best Practices Carding Video* to support the tens of thousands of service workers in West Virginia's alcohol industry. These service workers frequently encounter various forms of legal and illegal identification (IDs).

The video is designed for both on-premises and off-premises licensees and provides servers and sellers of beer, wine, and spirits with increased awareness of different IDs. The video features state-of-the-art illustrations and detailed tutorials on the carding process, along with various scenes depicting common situations employees may face in their venues. This video expands on the carding poster released last year (see page 22).

The creation of this video was a joint endeavor with the West Virginia Department of Commerce. This collaboration involved drafting and editing the narration, customizing the script, designing props and illustrations, creating storyboards, holding casting calls, and vetting and selecting filming locations. Scenes were filmed both on-site and using a green screen at the West Virginia Cultural Center. Following filming, the West Virginia Department of Commerce handled the editing for the final product. The West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) also played an important part in the development of this video. Funding for the project was provided by the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association.

RETAIL LIQUOR OUTLETS



Retail Liquor Outlets

The mission of the WVABCA Spirits Division is to maintain and promote a robust portfolio of spirits to the 182 licensed retail liquor outlets across the state. The WVABCA meets and exceeds consumer demands by working with 268 active vendors (suppliers), which includes 12 in-state distilleries, 13 in-state mini-distilleries, 2 in-state micro-distilleries, and 122 liquor representatives.

The Portal

All licensed retail liquor outlet owners and designated employees, liquor vendors, and representatives have secure online access to the WVABCA in-house Order Entry Portal. With access to product information, bailment reports, sales data, and much more. The Portal resembles “click and pay” software where the retail liquor outlets shop for their products from the ABCA bailment portfolio and submit the order for processing. Payment is made by EFT (electronic funds transfer).

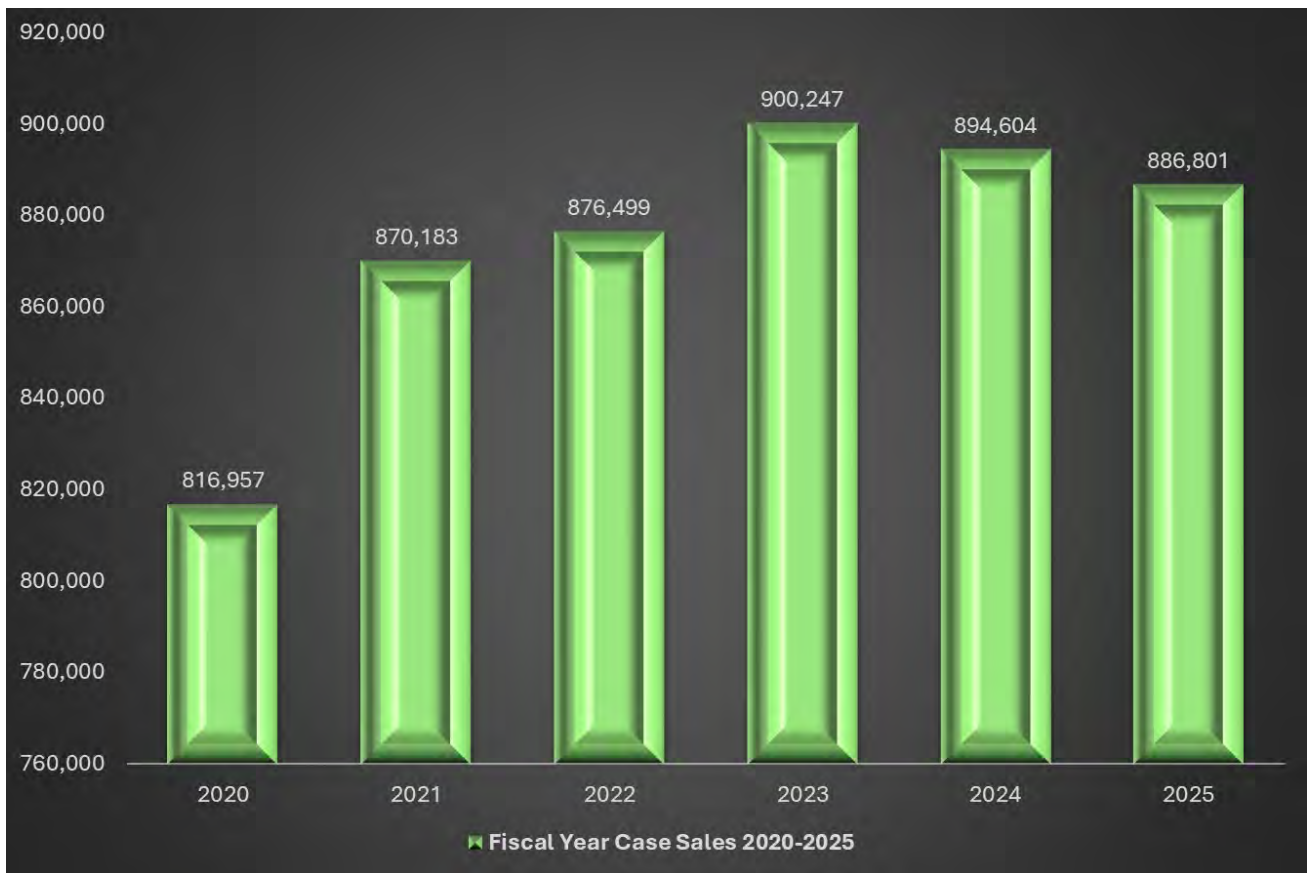


3,139
Active Special Order
Product Codes

2,568
Active Bailment
Product Codes

Distribution Center

The WVABCA Distribution Center is a 153,000 square foot warehouse that houses the agency’s bailment operations. The Distribution Center stores 3,139 active product codes and 2,568 special order product codes. In addition to receiving products from 268 suppliers, the staff pick, assemble, and fulfill orders for delivery to the 182 retail liquor outlet stores.



Graphs display fiscal year sales by case and revenue generated from 2020-2025.



TOP 10 BRANDS

BY CASE SALES

<p>1</p> <p><i>Tito's</i></p>  <p><i>Handmade</i> VODKA AUSTIN ★ TEXAS</p> <p>37,391</p>	<p>2</p> <p>FIREBALL</p>  <p>19,293</p>
<p>3</p> <p>BARTON VODKA</p> <p>14,278</p>	<p>4</p> <p>JACK DANIEL'S</p>  <p>13,882</p>
<p>5</p>  <p><i>Crown Royal</i></p> <p>13,689</p>	<p>6</p> <p>SMIRNOFF</p>  <p>12,058</p>
<p>7</p> <p><i>Crown Royal</i></p> <p>REGAL APPLE</p> <p>11,196</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Evan Williams Bourbon</p> <p>10,618</p>
<p>9</p> <p>VLADIMIR VODKA</p> <p>10,284</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Crown Royal</i></p> <p>BLACKBERRY</p> <p>8,042</p>

2020-2023 Retail Liquor Outlets

Barbour County

1. 603-Smoker Friendly #33, Philippi
2. 591-Belington Shop N Save, Beilington

Berkeley County

3. 623-7-11 #28310, Hedgessville
4. 624-7-11 #10670, Martinsburg
5. 628-7-11 #25306, Martinsburg
6. 630-7-11 #28320B, Falling Water
7. 723-Smoker Friendly Penn Liquor, Martinsburg
8. 732-Rutter's, Inwood
9. 724-Smoker Friendly Liquor Express, Inwood
10. 725-Smoker Friendly Big Apple Liquor, Inwood

Boone County

11. 403-Walgreens 17413, Danville
12. 405-Little General #4000, Comfort

Brauxton County

13. 533-Little General, Sutton
14. 635-CVS Pharmacy #6307, Gassaway

Brooke County

15. 406-Walgreens 19743, Follansbee
16. 407-Walgreens 19991, Wellsburg
17. 496-Tri-State Liquor, Weirton

Cabell County

18. 492-Classic Liquors, Huntington
19. 607-Julian's Market, Huntington
20. 611-Saad's Wine & Spirits, Huntington
21. 622-Stadium Spirits, Huntington
22. 626-Huntington Beverage Center, Huntington
23. 627-King Spirits, Huntington
24. 633-CVS Pharmacy #4419
25. 576-King Cut Rate Tobacco, Barboursville
26. 641-Little General Store #5060, Barboursville

Callhoun County

27. 744-Par Mar #156, Arnoldsburg

Clay County

28. 408-Little General #3075, Lizemore

Doddridge County

29. 667-7-11 #35963H, West Union

Fayette County

30. 409-Little General #3060, Gaudley Bridge
31. 606-Video Palace, Inc., Montgomery
32. 498-Comac #3, Oak Hill
33. 499-Comac #4, Fayetteville

Gilmer County

33. 714-Smoker Friendly Liquor Plus #43, Glenville

Grant County

34. 452-7-11 #34915, Petersburg
35. 657-Grown Spirits, Petersburg

Greenbrier County

36. 490-Greenbrier Liquor Shoppe, White Sulphur Springs
37. 491-Mountaineer Mart, Caldwell
38. 506-The Loft, Lewisburg
39. 507-Lewisburg Spirits & Wine, Lewisburg
40. 411-Walgreens 18404, Rainele

Hampshire County

41. 453-7-11 #16924A, Romney
42. 510-Cruise Thru, Romney

Hancock County

43. 497-Tri-state Discount Liquor, Chester
44. 537-New Cumberland Liquors, New Cumberland
45. 508-Celebrations, Weirton
46. 509-Weirton Shop N Save, Weirton

Hardy County

47. 454-7-11 #28317A, Wardensville
48. 519-A&A Spirits Shoppe, Moorefield

Harrison County

49. 413-Clarksburg Shop N Save, Clarksburg
50. 414-Walgreens 17405, Nutter Fort
51. 536-The Spirit Shoppe, Nutter Fort
52. 547-Shinnston Shop N Save, Shinnston
53. 586-BFS #35, Bridgeport
54. 660-BFS #19, Bridgeport
55. 658-J&J's Mountaineer Mart, Salem

Jackson County

56. 415-Walgreens 17116, Ripley
57. 416-Walgreens 17280, Ravenswood

Jefferson County

58. 455-Harknashi LLC dba 7-11 #34688, Ranson
59. 541-J&D Enterprise dba 7-11 #28315A, Harpers Ferry
60. 625-7-11 #28316B, Charles Town
61. 457-7-11 #20685, Shepherdstown
62. 652-Shepherdstown Liquors, Shepherdstown

Kanawha County

63. 417-Walgreens 12545-S, Charleston
64. 418-Walgreens 17408, Charleston
65. 419-Kroger #785, Charleston
66. 420-Walgreens 17353, Charleston
67. 421-Walgreens 19653, Charleston
68. 608-Premiere Liquors, Charleston
69. 669-7-11 35910H, Charleston
70. 422-Walgreens 19790, Dunbar
71. 423-Walgreens 17738, South Charleston
72. 424-Walgreens, St. Albans
73. 425-Walgreens 11750-S, Cross Lanes
74. 609-Smoker Friendly #16, Dunbar
75. 649-Walmart Supercenter #2576, Nitro
76. 656-Walgreens 17588, Sissonville
77. 426-Walgreens 19108, Big Chimney
78. 554-Sam's Club #6457, South Charleston
79. 589-King Cute Rate Tobaccos, Marmet
80. 640-Little General Store #4095, Charleston
81. 643-Little General Store #4135, Pinch
82. 647-Walmart Supercenter #2036, South Charleston

Lewis County

83. 527-Lewis County Liquor, Weston
84. 584-BFS #14, Weston

Lincoln County

85. 663-7-11 #35927H, Hamlin

Logan County

86. 427-Walgreens 17792, Chapmanville
87. 612-L.A. Liquor & Lottery, Logan
88. 720-The Liquor Lair, Man

Marion County

89. 470-GDSH Distributors, Fairmont
90. 634-East Fairmont Shop N Save, Fairmont
91. 610-South Fairmont Shop N Save, Fairmont
92. 428-Walgreens 18959, Mannington
93. 728-Whitehall Liquor, Whitehall

Marshall County

94. 429-Walgreens 19305, Benwood
95. 504-CVS Pharmacy #6277, Moundsville

Mason County

96. 602-Smoker Friendly #38, Point Pleasant
97. 650-Walgreens 18006, Point Pleasant
98. 525-Serestew Inc dba American Spirits

McDowell County

99. 644-Little General Store #5400, Bradshaw
100. 523-Welch Bantam Market, Welch

Mercer County

101. 502-One Stop Beverage Mart, Bluefield
102. 503-Hop & Go #1, Bluefield
103. 548-Hop & Go #2, Bluefield
104. 477-Liquors & More #1, Princeton
105. 478-Liquors & More #2, Princeton
106. 535-The Liquor Store, Princeton

Mineral County

107. 458-7-11 #17109B, Keyser
108. 653-7-11 #36952A, Keyser
109. 459-7-11 #28326A, Fort Ashby

Mingo County

110. 596-Trails End Souvenirs, Gilbert
111. 599-H&H Spirits, Williamson
112. 528-Zeeck Enterprises dba Liquor Port, Kermit

Monongalia County

113. 471-BFS #26, Morgantown
114. 472-BFS #30, Morgantown
115. 473-GDSH Distributors, Morgantown
116. 516-Giant Eagle #59, Morgantown
117. 544-Ashbrooke Liquor Outlet, Morgantown
118. 734-BFS Foods #22, Morgantown
119. 474-BFS #38, Morgantown
120. 587-Walgreens 17700, Westover
121. 639-giant Eagle #58, Morgantown

Monroe County

122. 620-Old White Corp dba Monroe Liquor, Union
123. 642-Little General Store #2150, Alderson

Morgan County

124. 460-7-11 #28303A, Berkeley Springs
125. 654-Top Shelf Liquors, Berkeley Springs

Nicholas County

126. 646-Mountaineer Mart, Richwood
127. 513-King Cut Rate Tobaccos #3, Summersville
128. 594-Godfather Liquors No. 2, Mt. Nebo

Ohio County

129. 432-Walgreens 17319, Wheeling133
130. 433-Smoker Friendly #20, Wheeling
131. 505-CVS Pharmacy #6278, Wheeling
132. 582-Smoker Friendly #21, Wheeling
133. 629-Smoker Friendly #41, Wheeling

Pendleton County

134. 605-L&W Spirit Shop, Franklin

Pleasants County

135. 435-Walgreens 17935, St. Marys

Pocahontas County

136. 479-Liquors & More #3, Marlinton
137. 670-Hops, Vines & Spirits, Snowshoe

Preston County

138. 436-Walgreens 19666, Kingwood
139. 475-BFS #10, Bruceston Mills
140. 659-Par Mar dba J&J's Mountaineer Mart, Terra Alta

Putnam County

141. 638-CVS Pharmacy #7124, Hurricane
142. 655 Walgreens 17274, Eleanor
143. 672-Smoker Friendly, Hurricane
144. 597-Smoker Friendly #8, Scott Depot
145. 665-7-11 #35915A, St Albans

Raleigh County

146. 438-Smoker Friendly Liquor Plus, Beckley
147. 439-Walgreens 11978-S, Beckley
148. 493-CJ's Tobacco Shop, Beckley
149. 549-Kroger #790, Beckley
150. 574-Godfather Liquor, Bradley
151. 494-CJ's Tobacco Shop, Beckley
152. 495-CJ's Tobacco Shop, Sophia
153. 561-Little General Store #2165, Daniels
154. 636-CVS Pharmacy #6313, Beaver

Randolph County

155. 562-Smoker Friendly #15, Elkins
156. 590-Smoker Friendly #23, Elkins
157. 614-Par Mar Store #45, Huttonsville

Ritchie County

158. 440-Walgreens 18423, Harrisville

Roane County

159. 531-spencer Spirits, Spencer

Summers County

160. 441-Walgreens 18344, Hinton

Taylor County

161. 442-Walgreens 12277, Grafton

Tucker County

162. 443-Walgreens 18187-Parsons
163. 645-Mt Top Cigo, Thomas
164. 715-BFS #17, Davis

Tyler County

165. 563-Par Mar Oil, Sistersville

Upshur County

166. 444-Walgreens 17113, Buckhannon

Wayne County

167. 578-Classic Liquors, Kenova
168. 637-CVS Pharmacy #6350, Kenova

Webster County

169. 445-Little General Store, Webster Springs

Wetzel County

170. 648-Walmart Supercenter #2684, New Martinsville

Wirt County

171. 733-Little General #7550, Elizabeth

Wood County

173. 530-SA Liquor Store LLC dba North End Market, Parkersburg
174. 545-Sam's Club #6373, Vienna
175. 573-Par Mar #3, Parkersburg
176. 598-Smoker Friendly #1, Parkersburg
177. 661-CVS Pharmacy #7604, Parkersburg
178. 713-Smoker Friendly, Parkersburg
179. 524-Par Mar-Cork-N-Bottle, Williamstown

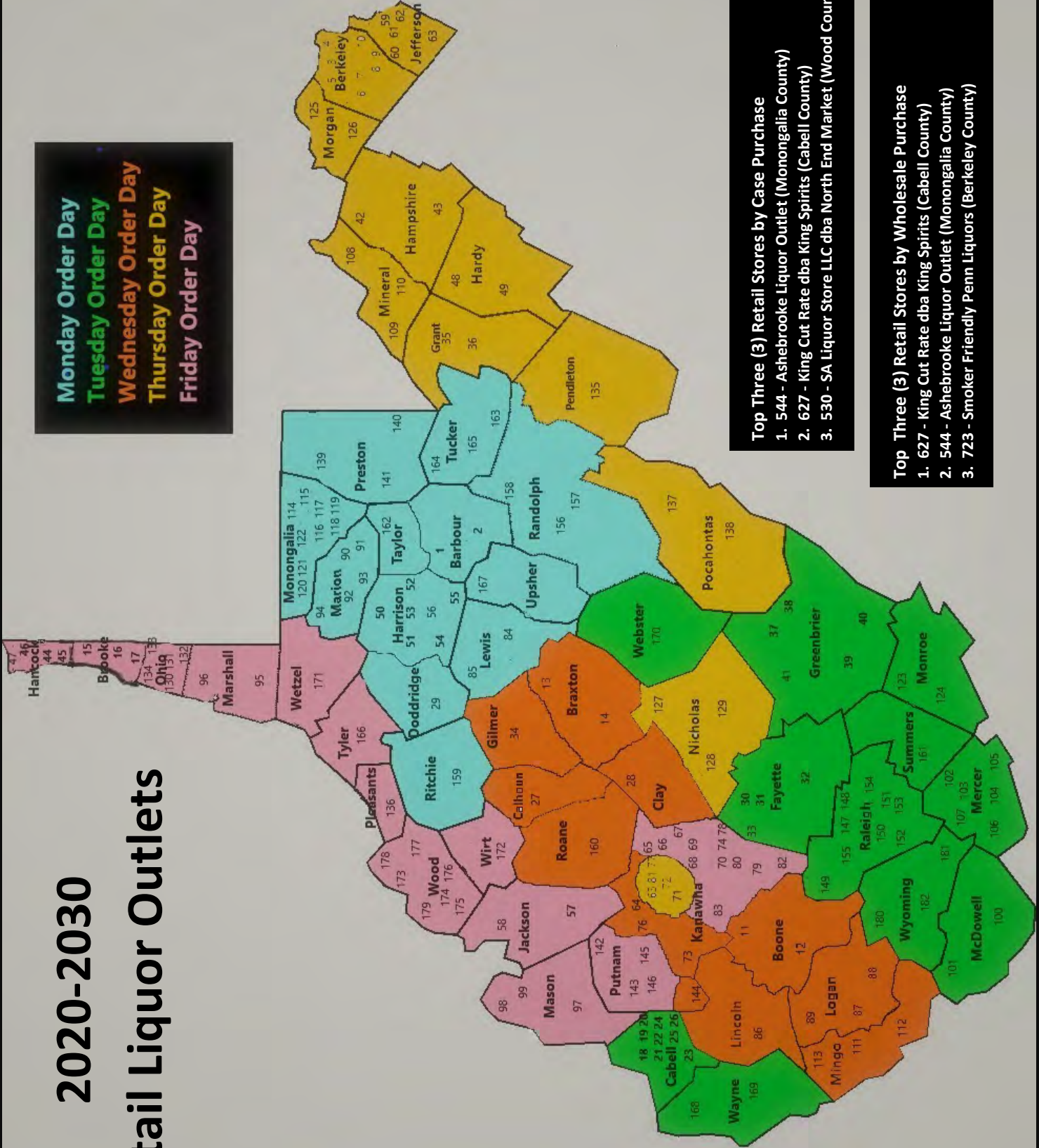
Wyoming County

180. 446-Walgreens 18397, Mullens
181. 447-Walgreens 19681, Pineville
182. 664-7-11 #35920H, Oceana

2020-2030

Retail Liquor Outlets

Monday Order Day
 Tuesday Order Day
 Wednesday Order Day
 Thursday Order Day
 Friday Order Day



Top Three (3) Retail Stores by Case Purchase
 1. 544 - Ashebrooke Liquor Outlet (Monongalia County)
 2. 627 - King Cut Rate dba King Spirits (Cabell County)
 3. 530 - SA Liquor Store LLC dba North End Market (Wood County)

44,993
 38,784
 20,748

Top Three (3) Retail Stores by Wholesale Purchase
 1. 627 - King Cut Rate dba King Spirits (Cabell County)
 2. 544 - Ashebrooke Liquor Outlet (Monongalia County)
 3. 723 - Smoker Friendly Penn Liquors (Berkeley County)

\$6,009,330.93
 \$5,699,546.43
 \$3,113,359.71



WEST VIRGINIA

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

900 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR

CHARLESTON, WV 25302

304-356-5500

1-800-642-8208 (TOLL FREE WITHIN WEST VIRGINIA)

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