



Town of Dewey Beach

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ORDINANCE NO.

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5 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117-3 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF DEWEY 6 BEACH REGARDING LICENSE FEES

7 **WHEREAS**, the Town of Dewey Beach has examined license fees and determined that increases
8 are warranted given the increased expense associated with the municipal charge to protect and
9 preserve public safety, health, peace, cleanliness, good order and general welfare.

10 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED**, by the Commissioners of the Town of
11 Dewey Beach, Sussex County, Delaware, in session met, as follows:

12 **Section 1.** Amend Chapter 117-3 of the Code of Ordinances as depicted by strikeouts and substitutions
13 depicted below:

- 15 1) Residential property rentals: ~~\$188~~ \$250 base fee, plus ~~\$15~~ \$20 for each bedroom over two.
- 16 2) Motels and hotels: ~~\$503~~ \$520 base fee, plus ~~\$29~~ \$31 per room.
- 17 3) Food and beverage service establishments: ~~\$359~~ \$520 base fee, plus ~~\$10~~ \$13 per person, based
18 on Fire Marshal occupancy and seated dining capacity.
 - 19 a) Occupancy shall include Fire Marshal-determined capacities for all patron areas, indoor and
20 outdoor, where food and beverages are or can be served, plus any seated dining capacity for
21 which Fire Marshal determinations are not available.
 - 22 b) For small establishments for which the Fire Marshal has not established occupancy (e.g.,
23 under 35 persons), the ~~\$10~~ \$13 per person multiplier shall be based upon seating capacity
24 as reported to and approved by the Town of Dewey Beach.
 - 25 c) The Town reserves the right to verify occupancy reporting, and assess appropriate
26 additional license fees if occupancy, as defined and applicable to the establishment, is
27 underreported for purposes of obtaining a license under this section.
- 28 4) One-day business license: \$27.
- 29 5) Conference center (2,500 square feet or larger): \$2,872.
- 30 6) Small ~~in-Town~~ businesses not classified above (one to four employees): ~~\$359~~ \$260
- 31 7) Large ~~in-Town~~ businesses not classified above (five or more employees): ~~\$503~~ \$520
- 32 8) ~~Small out-of-Town business (one to four employees): \$143.~~
- 33 9) ~~Large out-of-Town business (five or more employees): \$503.~~

34 **Section 2.** If any provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed or held to be invalid or unenforceable for
35 any reason whatsoever, then such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of
36 this Ordinance which may be given effect without such invalid or unenforceable provision, and to this
37 end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

39 **Section 3.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by a majority vote of the
40 Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach.

42 Adopted by at least a majority of the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach on this 13th day of
43 February, 2026.

SYNOPSIS

48 This amendment to Chapter 117-3 updates the Town of Dewey Beach's business license fee schedule by
49 adjusting base fees and per-unit charges for residential rentals, hotels and motels, restaurants and
50 eateries, and small and large businesses not otherwise listed. This ordinance also removes the "in-town"
51 or "out-of-town" business classifications, providing a standard fee for large and small businesses
52 regardless of location.

Mayor, William Stevens

Town Manager, Bill Zolper