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Friday

More distillery applications filed

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With a deadline looming ahead of a change in the state law governing distilleries, the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission got two more applications to build distilleries in Sevier County — one for Ole Smoky locations at the Island and Old Mill Road in Pigeon Forge, and the other for Outdoor Sportsman Acres at Inter-

Licenses sought for Pigeon Forge, Sevierville locations

state Exit 407 in Kodak.

The state approved a new law earlier this year that altered the guidelines for distilleries. When it takes effect Monday, that law will allow the construction of distilleries with on-site sales in any jurisdiction. However, cities and counties will have a 45-day

window to opt out — essentially to decide they don't wish to allow distilleries in their jurisdictions.

For municipalities that didn't already allow distilleries, the law prevents businesses from submitting liquor licenses until mid-August. However, distilleries were already legal in

Sevier County. Businesses had shown little interest in building them here because the expiring law only allowed on-site liquor sales in areas that already allowed off-premise sales.

During the transition between signing earlier this year and enactment on Monday, businesses in areas where dis-

tilleries could apply to build facilities had the opportunity to apply using the old law — getting their applications in before the municipalities could opt out, with the knowledge that they would be able to sell liquor at the sites regardless of whether the local government allowed liquor by the drink or tried to opt out of the law.

Please see **DISTILLERY** | A4