

be accompanied by a statement signed by the owner of the premises consenting to renewal of the license and to search and seizure as in the case of original applications; and upon the filing of such renewal application, and upon payment of the annual fee herein prescribed, the holder or holders of such expiring license shall be entitled to a new license for another year without the filing of further statements or the furnishing of any further information unless specifically requested by the official authorized to approve such license. Provided, however, that no license by way of renewal shall be approved without a hearing before such official if a protest signed by not less than ten residents or real estate owners of the precinct or voting district in which the licensed place of business is located, or instituted by the licensing board on its own initiative, has been filed against the granting of such new license at least thirty (30) days before the expiration of the license for which renewal is sought. If such protest has been filed it shall be heard and determined as in the case of original applications.

If the licensing official finds that the license holder is not qualified to obtain a renewal of the expiring license said official shall not renew said expiring license but shall issue to him by way of renewal the class or type of license for which they find him qualified. If an expiring license is subject to any order of restriction or suspension the new license shall be issued subject to said order. All applications for renewal received otherwise than as herein stated shall be treated as original applications.

No renewal of any license shall be granted any person who during the license year has been convicted of any offense against the laws of the State or of the United States which in the judgment of the local licensing officials is of such a nature as to render such person unfit or disqualified to obtain said renewal; provided that in such a case a public hearing shall be held by such local licensing officials prior to renewal at which all relevant facts and circumstances of such offense may be inquired into.

The Comptroller, and the Clerk of the Court for the City or County, as the case may be, shall be authorized to issue such new licenses for the ensuing year as hereinabove provided, at any time between April 15th and May 1st, of each and every year, but all such licenses shall be dated May 1st.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1945.

Approved February 28, 1945.