Pursuant to MA General Law Chapter 140 Section 23, you must obtain a license before operating a lodging house in Somerville. Generally, a lodging house is a house operated for profit, where rooms are let to four or more unrelated persons, including fraternity houses and school dormitories, but not including nursing homes or group homes.

TERM:
• The license expires on July 31 and is awarded for no more than one year.

APPLICATION CONDITIONS:
• You must apply online.
• The premises must be suitable pursuant to the building, zoning, fire, and health codes.
• The business must be deemed suitable for the community by the Police Department.
• You must have paid all taxes, fees or fines owed to the City of Somerville.
• The license is not transferrable.

FEE:
• $50.00 nonrefundable application fee.
• $605.00 annual license fee, paid after the application is approved.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:
The City requires that you upload the following documents as part of your application. The City will not process your application until these documents are included:
• The Workers’ Compensation Insurance Affidavit (download the form when you apply).
• Lease or other documentation of your access to the premises.

HOW TO APPLY:
Go to http://www.somervillema.gov/citizenserve.
• Click the citizenServe logo.
• Click “My Account.”
• Log in, or, if this is your first online application, click “REGISTER NOW” to create an account.
• Scroll down and click “APPLY FOR A LICENSE.”
• At Application Type, select “Business License.”
• At Sub Type, select “Lodging House.”
• Enter your Business Name.
• At “Is this application for a new or existing business location?”:
  o Select “A new business location” if this is your first application in CitizenServe.
    o Enter the Somerville address of your proposed business, and click “FIND ADDRESS.”
    o If CitizenServe doesn’t identify your address, select “USE THIS ADDRESS.”
  OR
  o Select “An additional license for an existing business” if your business is licensed in CitizenServe.
    o At “License #” select a license you’ve received before.
• Answer the remaining questions.
• At Contacts, select a contact you’ve already entered, or, if you want the license mailed to a different address, select “Enter a new contact” and enter the mailing name and address.
• Upload the required documents, Accept all terms and conditions, Submit the form, and Pay the required fee.

QUESTIONS?
• If you have questions, contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@somervillema.gov.