Overview of the ILCC
The ILCC website is your “one-stop shop” for all liquor-related information. It’s where you can download a license application, confirm existing liquor laws and regulations, request educational materials, and much more. The illustration below provides an overview of our home page showing the location of specific areas of interest. You can navigate to all available information on our website via this easy-to-use page. Whether you are seeking a general summary of the Liquor Commission or more specific and detailed information, you can find it simply by visiting ILCC.illinois.gov.

Illinois Liquor Control Commission Website: www.state.il.us/LCC
What is the Illinois Liquor Control Commission?

Compliance
Ensures that licensees comply with the provisions of the Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934 and its Rules and Regulations.

Licenses
Issues approximately 28,000 state liquor licenses each year at various classifications for the three tiers of the liquor industry. Strict qualifying criteria must be followed to obtain a liquor license as defined in the Illinois Liquor Control Act, which includes ownership information, local licensing, tax status and sales tax history. Revenues collected from liquor license fees fund all Commission operations.

Inspections
Conducts approximately 26,000 routine inspections of licensed premises via its team of 24 agents who are headquartered throughout the state. Upon finding violations of the Illinois Liquor Control Act, electronic reports are transmitted to the central office for adjudication.

Violations
Violations are reviewed and evaluated to determine the severity of the offense and method by which cases are to be adjudicated—from penalty fines to citing for formal hearings.

Hearings
ILCC’s Chairman and six Commissioners hold 18 formal hearings each year. They rule on the most serious of cases—including those affecting the health and safety of community—and hear appeals brought to the Commission by licensees who wish to challenge the local liquor commissioner’s decision.

Taxes
The Liquor Commission works jointly with the Illinois Department of Revenue to collect delinquent sales tax payments from liquor licensees.

Mail and Web Orders
Monitors and regulates mail order and internet sales of alcohol beverage products within Illinois and collaborates with regulatory bodies from other states to prevent illegal shipments of alcohol to minors.

Education
Provides an industry education program, which focuses primarily on the ILCC’s enforcement practices; interpretation of Illinois liquor control laws and minimum-age tobacco laws; and public awareness efforts regarding the consequences of underage drinking.

Responsible Sales
Encourages responsible selling and serving of alcohol by licensing and promoting the Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) program. Additionally, to keep communities safe, various materials have been created—including public service announcements, posters, and fliers—to reduce incidents of driving under the influence of alcohol and decrease illegal sales of alcohol beverages to minors.

Underage Sales
ILCC special agents supervise underage purchasers during random ID checks. These checks, which are performed throughout the State of Illinois, test retail sales personnel on their duty to perform proper ID checks in the sale of alcohol. Agents also conduct periodic compliance sweeps in conjunction with other state and local enforcement agencies to check for violations above and beyond Illinois liquor laws. Lastly, the Commission conducts random tobacco compliance checks to measure retailer compliance to minimum-age tobacco laws. Grants are also provided to local jurisdictions, who perform their own checks.

Kids Can’t Buy ‘Em Here
Tobacco Retailer Kit
To order call 312.814.6884

BASSET materials
To order call 312.814.0773

Liquor Licensee Education Packet
To order call 312.814.4802
An Overview: ILCC Divisions

Chairman and Commissioners

The Chairman and Commissioners are appointed to a six-year term by the Governor and require confirmation by the Illinois Senate. They hold formal hearings to weigh violations resulting from state liquor inspections or hear appeals challenging local liquor commissioner orders. In addition, the Chairman and one Commissioner serve on the City of Chicago’s Liquor License Appeal Commission.

Investigations

The Investigations Division is responsible for conducting liquor inspections at over 26,000 licensed entities throughout Illinois. This Division is divided into geographical areas and includes a staff of 24 agents who conduct 1,000 inspections each year. These agents use laptop computers to ensure standardized reporting and consistent application of enforcement. Agents respond to all complaints received from the general public regarding violations. They serve as liaisons to local liquor commissioners and law enforcement agencies, and they conduct orientation inspections for new licensees upon request.

Legal

The Legal Division is responsible for counseling the commissioners and the executive staff on interpretations of the Illinois Liquor Control Act and its Rules and Regulations. This Division reviews all violations to weigh the severity of the offenses. When necessary, the Division holds pre-disciplinary conferences with licensees. A staff attorney reviews more serious violations and a citation is prepared for formal hearing with the Commissioners. The Legal Division continuously communicates with the public regarding explanations and interpretations of the provisions of the Illinois Liquor Control Act and its Rules and Regulations—including Happy Hour prohibitions, advertising, storage, licensing and purchasing.

Licensing

The Licensing Division is responsible for reviewing state liquor applications and issuing more than 200 new and 2,000 renewed state liquor licenses every month. There are 42 different license categories—including airplanes, trains and liquor stores, non-beverage users, out-of-state distributors, special events, non-resident dealers, national and foreign licensing, and brand registration. This Division has staff in both Chicago and Springfield offices and provides assistance to licensees to facilitate the license issuance process.

Education

The Education Division is responsible for educating the liquor industry regarding the laws that govern liquor and tobacco sales throughout the state. This Division also promotes the Illinois Liquor Control Commission’s (ILCC) Kids Can’t Buy ‘Em Here Tobacco Program, the Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) Program, the Don’t Be Sorry Under 21 Program, the YOUR ACTIONS MATTER! Prevention Campaign, and Parental Responsibility Program. The Education Division makes available to licensees a variety of educational publications including newsletters, booklets, fliers, news releases, and signs. Many of the above materials are included in the Commission’s Licensee Information Packet. The educational staff also conducts presentations in cities across the state tailored to meet the needs of all audiences and ages. Further, the Education Division continues to improve communications between the Commission and industry and government agencies.
ILCC Educational Programs

BASSET
The Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) is the State of Illinois’ responsible beverage service program. The program is an educational and training tool which serves as a preventive measure to discourage overconsumption and keep intoxicated drivers off the roads.

BASSET is required by many local jurisdictions throughout the state. In areas where training is not required, many businesses voluntarily send their staff to attend BASSET. This equips them with the skills necessary to prevent any alcohol-related mishaps and can reduce an establishment’s liquor liability insurance.

To find a class near you and order the program’s free “We Card Hard” pack of materials, please call 312-814-0773.

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!
The goal of the YOUR ACTIONS MATTER! campaign is to change the behavior of adults who think it is “okay” to give alcohol to minors.

The campaign materials were designed by teens to reinforce positive behavior, and include bottleneckers (or “necktags”), window decals, coasters, buttons, signs, posters, and more.

The YOUR ACTIONS MATTER! campaign also features yearly contests for teens. To learn more, please visit www.YourActionsMatter.org.

Don’t Be Sorry
The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is committed to raising awareness about the negative consequences of underage drinking.

The Don’t Be Sorry campaign consists of educational materials targeted to reach specific age groups. Additionally, ILCC staff conducts presentations and programs for all ages – from pre-teens and their parents to local elected officials and law enforcement.

To order the free materials and request a Don’t Be Sorry presentation for your community group, please visit www.DontBeSorry.org.

Kid’s Can’t Buy ‘Em Here
The Commission’s tobacco program is responsible for the Kids Can’t Buy ‘Em Here tobacco campaign, which includes U.S Federal Drug Administration (FDA) advertising and labeling inspections, the State Annual Survey compliance check operations, and Tobacco Enforcement Program grant program for local jurisdictions.

The FDA inspections and State Annual Survey are completed throughout the state by Commission tobacco compliance specialists. These specialists ensure compliance with federal advertising and labeling regulations and measure retailer compliance to minimum-age tobacco laws.

The Tobacco Enforcement Program distributes $1 million in grants to local units of government and law enforcement agencies to educate tobacco retailers on minimum-age tobacco laws and to perform tobacco compliance checks on retailers. Participating communities distribute approximately 10,000 tobacco retailer kits and conduct over 17,000 compliance checks annually.

Parental Responsibility
The ILCC’s Talk It Up! Parental Responsibility campaign features public service announcements via a variety of mediums asking parents to start the conversation with their kids about not drinking alcohol. The media blitz offers suggestions for parents on how to talk to their pre-teens before their high school years.

Parental Responsibility staff also conduct numerous school presentations for junior high students as part of this effort. To request a speaker for your school, please call 312-814-3083.
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

“To protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Illinois through careful control and regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic liquors and through the development of strategies to reduce youth access to tobacco products.”

Illinois Liquor Control Commission
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