Safety continues to be a top priority of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. Holding a liquor license is a privilege and tremendous responsibility. We are all stakeholders in ensuring safety on the roads and in our communities in Illinois when it comes to alcohol service and consumption.

As of July 1, 2018, Illinois became a mandatory server training state. The Commission’s Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) Program is required for all servers, bartenders and security detail to be certified by a licensed BASSET provider. This is a requirement for all on-premise establishments, which include bars, restaurants, nightclubs, sports bars and movie theaters. Off-premise (packaged goods) establishments are exempt; however, if a local ordinance mandates that sellers in these establishments be trained, they must comply with local ordinance.

The BASSET Program teaches servers various intervention and prevention techniques, including identification of security issues and creating a safer environment to fulfill the Commission’s goal of reducing the number of alcohol-related incidents and underage sales. For more information regarding the BASSET program or a listing of licensed BASSET providers and courses, check the ILCC website at www.illinois.gov/ilcc.
A new law signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner does away with an archaic and burdensome obstacle to small business development throughout the state.

The Liquor Control Act of 1934 prohibited the sale of alcohol within 100 feet of a religious institution, school, hospital, or military station and demanded that any exemption would require General Assembly approval. Senate Bill 2436, which passed both Houses with strong bipartisan support, places such exemptions back into the hands of local liquor commissioners, effective immediately.

“Today’s bill signing is a clear example of bipartisan cooperation in Springfield to reform a broken system,” Rauner said. “Entrepreneurs should not have to pass a state law to open a new business. SB 2436 streamlines this process and empowers local officials to decide what is best for their communities.”

The legislative effort was supported by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. Executive Director Enyia attended the bill signing conducted at Eggsperience Café in Chicago. All supporters were greeted with enthusiasm by the Small Business Advocacy Council and numerous entities that partnered with the SBAC in support of the legislation’s passage.

“The outdated statute was an obstacle to the growth of local economies, often in areas where new opportunities are needed most,” said SBAC President and Founder Elliot Richardson. “SB 2436 reforms this process so that rather than painting all communities with a single brush, local leaders can determine the restrictions that best serve their businesses and residents.”

The Liquor Control Act of 1934 became law in Illinois shortly after Prohibition was repealed. Most small business owners had neither the time nor the resources to pursue having a bill drafted, passed by legislators who may reside hundreds of miles away from their location, and signed by the governor. According to a recent business news account, only 75 businesses received a General Assembly-approved exemption in the 1934 Act’s 84-year history.

Chicago entrepreneurs faced even more challenges than those in other municipalities prior to today’s bill signing, said Sen. Chris Nybo, R-Elmhurst.

“Other local municipalities had been given much more power to determine liquor licenses at their local liquor control commission because they qualified for more statutory exemptions to the rule,” he said. “This bill will remove the practice of businesses being required to ask support from local leaders and aldermen to receive legislation in Springfield for their license. This is a good government bill that is about local control.”

Members of the coalition in support of SB 2436 included the Austin, Edgewater, Illinois, Lakeview, Lakeview East, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square Ravenswood and Little Village chambers of commerce, as well as the Illinois Restaurant Association and the Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship, and the Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

Small businesses account for more than a 60 percent share of companies in the food service, accommodation, and entertainment industries — adding up to more than 350,000 jobs, according to the 2017 U.S. Small Business Administration Profile for Illinois.
All Illinois liquor license renewal notices will no longer be mailed
In an effort to reduce paper and streamline the liquor license renewal process, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) will no longer mail a renewal notice to licensees.

What if I don’t want to renew my liquor license online?
You can renew your liquor license using a paper renewal application form in one of two ways:

If you have a MyTax Illinois account
1. Log into your MyTax Illinois account and click on your “Correspondence” tab.
2. Open the “LCC Renewal Application.”
3. Print the renewal form; update and provide any necessary information.

If you do not have a MyTax Illinois account
1. Visit mytax.illinois.gov and click the “Sign up Now!” button.
2. For full activation information click on the Guide to Creating a MyTax Illinois Account for additional help.
3. If you are not able to create or access your MyTax Illinois Account account please contact our office at 312-814-2206 or 217-782-2136 to request a copy of a renewal application.

For either paper option, once the form is complete, mail to the ILCC or take to one of the locations listed on the form.

How will I know when it's time to renew my liquor license?
You will receive an email reminder from ILCC 45 days prior to the expiration date on your liquor license.

Are there benefits for my business if I renew online?
Yes. For most liquor licenses you will be charged a reduced fee by renewing online.
Stopping illegal importation of alcohol is a top priority for the Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

All licensees must be in compliance with the three-tier system, which includes: (1) the manufacturer, who sells the product to (2) the wholesaler/distributor, who then sells the product to (3) the retailer. By law, retailers must purchase their alcohol products from a distributor. If a retailer runs out of a product, the retailer is prohibited from purchasing it from another retailer for resale. This includes crossing state lines and transporting alcohol from another state and reselling it in Illinois.

Engaging in illegal importation creates an unfair business environment for all licensees, and it is estimated that the State of Illinois can lose $20 to $30 million in tax revenues every year.

On August 26, 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner signed Senate Bill 2989, known as Public Act 099-0904, into law to toughen the penalties for bootlegging into a Class 4 felony. In Illinois once you get your liquor license revoked you are automatically ineligible to get another license. That is why it is important to comply with the law, protect your license, protect your business, and protect your livelihood. Avoid illegal importation.

Please see the links below for recent headlines in the news on Illegal Importation raids ILCC participated in:

**Operation TGIF: Feds, police raid multiple liquor stores in cross-state investigation**

**Police raid liquor store on U.S. 41 in Highland; Illinois agencies investigating**

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*Illegal Importation = REVOCATION*

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ILCC BASSET and Under 21 Program Manager Lee Roupas, gave the ILCC’s school presentation to grade school students participating in the Cook County Sheriff’s Police Juvenile Justice and Advocacy Unit’s Leadership Academy Camp (LAC). The LAC program’s goal is character building for young people. They offer workshops in anger management, leadership development, and critical thinking/decision-making skills. The ILCC’s school presentation gave them the tools necessary for making sound decisions to avoid alcohol and drug abuse.
Victims of human trafficking often do not know where to turn for assistance and can be too intimidated to ask for help. Public Act 099-0099 requires specified businesses and other establishments, as of January 1, 2016, to post a notice informing the public and victims of human trafficking of telephone hotline numbers to seek help or report unlawful activity. There are specific posting mandates, language requirements, and penalties for failure to post. The mandated notice is available on this website for downloading. Each mandated business is required to post the notice in English and Spanish. In addition, for businesses located in specific counties, a third language posting is required.

The mandated posting provides victims of human trafficking with essential information on where to obtain assistance. The posting also provides critical information to the public on how to report suspected human trafficking.

**Summary of Public Notice Requirements**

1. **Who Must Post a Public Notice**
   - On the premise consumption retailer licensees under the Liquor Control Act of 1934 where the sale of alcoholic liquor is the principal business carried on by the licensee at the premises and primary to the sale of food.
   - Adult entertainment facilities
   - Primary airports
   - Intercity passenger rail or light rail stations
   - Bus stations
   - Truck Stops. For the purposes of this Act, "truck stop" means a privately-owned and operated facility that provides food, fuel, shower or other sanitary facilities, and lawful overnight truck parking.
   - Emergency rooms within general acute care hospitals
   - Urgent Care Centers
   - Farm labor contractors
   - Privately-operated job recruitment centers

2. **Where Must the Public Notice Be Posted**
The specified business or other establishment must post a notice in a conspicuous place near the public entrance of the establishment or in another conspicuous location in clear view of the public and employees where similar notices are customarily posted.

3. **What Languages the Public Notices Must Contain**
The specified businesses and other establishments must post the notice in English, Spanish, and in one other language that is the most widely spoken language in the county where the establishment is located and for which translation is mandated by the federal Voting Rights Act, as applicable. This does not require a business or other establishment in a county where a language other than English or Spanish is the most widely spoken language to print the notice in more than one language in addition to English and Spanish.

4. **The Model Public Notice**
The Illinois Department of Human Services has developed a model notice available for download.

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**Who needs the Human Trafficking Notice posted?**

DHS: Public Act 099-0099 An Act Concerning Human Trafficking
Liquor Inspection Pilot Program to continue in FY19

In an effort to improve the allocation of alcoholic beverage compliance resources, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) developed the Local Agency Liquor Inspection Pilot Program, also called the LC-13 project. The LC-13 project partners the ILCC with local and county agencies, such as health departments, sheriff’s offices, police departments, fire departments, and code enforcement departments. Under the agreement, the partnering agency will carry out Standard Liquor Inspections for the specified jurisdiction on behalf of the State of Illinois. Utilizing existing State resources, the ILCC is providing financial assistance and training for designated local inspectors.

The designated local inspectors participate in a standardized training course, as well as follow-up training with an ILCC Investigator. The designated local inspectors are trained to address areas of local concern, such as health/sanitation, license verifications, and deceptive practices. Under the terms of the agreement, local officials are required to report their findings to the State Commission, which may result in adjudicative action.

The LC-13 project began in December of 2015 with three agencies: Naperville Fire Department, Charleston Police Department, and the Bureau- Putnam County Health Department. The project has grown with each subsequent fiscal year. For Fiscal Year 2019, which runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the ILCC has secured agreements or is working to finalize agreements with 63 agencies across Illinois.

For additional information regarding this project and other resources provided by the ILCC, please visit our website at www.illinois.gov/ilcc.

BASSET News

Recertification: Now that Illinois has become a mandatory server training state, please notify your trainees that they must take the course again every three years to get recertified.

Lost BASSET Cards: If your students lose their BASSET cards, please give them their student ID numbers, and our web address www.illinois.gov/ilcc, to print their replacement card.

Returned BASSET cards, on/off premise, and correct addresses? Please ensure that all the information is correct when you submit your rosters to the BASSET email address REV.ILCC.Basset@illinois.gov. Indicate the correct certification on the spreadsheet. If it is on-premise vs. off-premise certification. I receive a stack of returned BASSET cards from the post office every week. Incomplete and outdated addresses get returned to the ILCC and cause delays in the delivery of BASSET cards. Please have the students put down their email addresses.

BASSET License Renewal: Renew your BASSET license online, and save money on the license fee. If it is past your expiration date, you will be unable to renew online for the reduced fee. You will also need to set up a MyTax Illinois account.

Post your BASSET class on the ILCC website: Please submit your class information in the following format: Day, Month, Time, City, Location, Address, Contact Person, Phone Number, And Email And Website. Example: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 9 AM – 1 PM, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60601, Joe Munson, 312-987-5687, joe.munson@gmail.com. Make your services available.

On behalf of the ILCC, we appreciate all of you and your dedication to keeping the industry in compliance and saving lives.

Newly Licensed BASSET Providers
- Freeport Police Department
- Happy Life Laundromat of Cherry Valley
- Hyatt Corporation
- Marc Zuckert

ILCC News Fall 2018
Public Act 100-0816: LIQUOR-BREWERS-SALE AT RETAIL
This bill authorizes a brewer, class 1 brewer, or class 2 brewer to sell beer manufactured by any other brewer, class 1 brewer, or class 2 brewer to non-licensees, and to sell cider.

This bill also authorizes a distributor licensee to sell beer, cider, or both beer and cider to brewers, class 1 brewers, and class 2 brewers that, sell beer, cider, or both beer and cider to non-licensees at their breweries.

A Wine Manufacturer or Wine Maker license holder cannot self-distribute to Brewer, Class 1 Brewer, or Class 2 Brewer license holders. The self-distribution exemption for wine manufacturers or wine makers is limited to sales to retail licensees. Sales to Brewers, Class 1 Brewers, or Class 2 Brewers must instead go through a licensed distributor.

Public Act 100-1036: LIQUOR-SALE NEAR CHURCH
This law adds additional provisions authorizing the issuance and renewal of licenses to sell alcoholic liquor at premises located within 100 feet of specific schools or churches located in the City of Chicago.

Public Act 100-0063: LIQUOR-SALE NEAR CHURCH/SCHOOL
This new law provides that a local liquor control commissioner may grant an exemption to that prohibition if a local rule or ordinance authorizes the local liquor control commissioner to grant that exemption.

Public Act 100-0885
The law provides that nothing in the Act prohibits a licensed distributor from offering credit or a refund for unused, salable alcoholic liquors to a holder of a special event retailer’s license or from the special event retailer’s licensee accepting the credit or refund for unused, salable alcoholic liquors at the conclusion of the event specified in the license.

The law provides that any manufacturer of beer that transfers beer into this State must comply with specified provisions of the Act related to recordkeeping and taxation.

In provisions related to signage, the law provides that temporary inside signs include product displays. The law also provides that all neons, illuminated signs, clocks, table lamps, mirrors, and tap handles are the property of the manufacturer and shall be returned to the manufacturer or its agent upon request.

This law was effective immediately (August 14, 2018).

Recent and Upcoming ILCC Events

- Sept. 17, 2018 • Illinois Licensed Beverage Association (ILBA) Convention
- Sept. 20-21, 2018 • Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference
- Oct. 30, 2018 • Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Traffic Safety Summit
- Nov. 1, 2018 • College Town Summit
The Illinois Liquor Control Commission's (ILCC) initiative is to assist liquor establishments to stay in compliance and provide tools, such as posters, signage and training guides, education initiatives, and compliance efforts to prevent underage sales of alcohol, and to provide information regarding the ILCC’s programs.

Order materials from our website at www.illinois.gov/ilcc or contact Lee Roupas at lee.roupas@illinois.gov.

NOTICE Poster – What is an acceptable ID? This poster encourages a business to set sound carding policies and “house rules.” By posting the NOTICE poster you will have proper documentation to make customers aware of your carding policies. It identifies primary IDs and secondary IDs if necessary to ask for one.

The Proper Way to Check IDs Training Guide – Demonstrates a step by step guide for servers and those checking IDs on the proper way to check an ID. The training guide identifies the security features to look for and offers tips on how to spot a fake ID.

Check out the ILCC’s Social Media Channels

Retailers Be Aware of these incidents:

- Off premise packaged goods stores need to observe “shoulder tapping” or adults being approached by minors.
- Use the initial encounter with a patron to evaluate them for intoxication or drug impairment.
- If a door host has doubts about an ID presented to them, they should ask for a secondary form of ID or ask to check their social media.
- Offer a Safe Ride program or encourage ride sharing to get patrons home safely to avoid liability.

ILCC 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 alcohol products.”