

ILCC News

Newsletter of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission

A Letter from ILCC Acting Director Chima Enyia



Chima Enyia
Acting Director, Illinois
Liquor Control Commission

As you may have noticed, you are reading the very first edition of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission’s Newsletter that is being distributed only in an electronic format. We made the decision to move to an electronic format as part of a broader initiative at ILCC to provide better, more efficient communication with our licensees while saving money. Please let us know what you think of the new format, and any other thoughts or ideas that you might have about how we can better serve ILCC licensees and the citizens of Illinois.

With that goal of service to licensees and the public in mind, there are three things that ILCC will be emphasizing this year. First, we are in the early stages of preparing a series of training materials for ILCC licensees. The goal is to educate all ILCC licensees about their particular license and

what is – and is not – permissible under Illinois law based on the license type. Our thought is that most violations stem not from an attempt to violate the law, but rather from a lack of information about what the law requires. These trainings will address common pitfalls and violations, and how they can be avoided. If you are interested in helping ILCC develop these training materials or have any ideas, please reach out to us at any time.

Second, the illegal importation of alcoholic liquor across state lines remains a major issue and stopping illegal importation remains the overall top priority for ILCC. ILCC has ramped up efforts to enforce the law and prevent illegal importation over the past year and will continue to do so throughout 2018. Any savings that retail licensees may generate by buying products across state lines surely are not worth the potential loss of license that may result.

Finally, ILCC remains committed to ensuring the public safety of the citizens of Illinois. In 2018, ILCC will increase the number of licensed location inspections and underage compliance checks with the goal of ensuring compliance with the public safety requirements of Illinois law. Please be sure that your licensed location meets the legal requirements of the Illinois Liquor Control Act and that you are checking IDs to prevent underage sales.

ILCC is looking forward to a productive and safe 2018. Please share this newsletter with your staff and any other individuals who might benefit from its contents. As always, we are here to serve you and are available to discuss any issues that you might have.

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www.illinois.gov/ilcc



Illinois requires mandatory server training by July 1, 2018

By Lee J. Roupas, *ILCC BASSET Program Manager*

Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) has many important resources for liquor licensees. Servers and bartenders are selling a legal drug. Anyone serving alcohol should be trained and certified on how to serve it in the safest way possible. Like any other profession, licensing and training are necessary for public safety, avoiding lawsuits, and profitability for a business.

Anyone walking into a liquor serving establishment should be analyzed as to whether they are presently impaired or may be impaired with the purchase of alcohol at that establishment. BASSET training provides the information and techniques that will curb alcohol-related incidents.

Since its inception, the BASSET program has been voluntary. It was at the jurisdiction of local municipalities to require it for servers. Even if it was not mandatory, locally businesses required it of their employees as policy for best practices. As the program became more prominent in the hospitality industry, more businesses and communities in Illinois started embracing it. More local jurisdictions began requiring the BASSET certification.

The signing of Public Act 99-0046 on July 15, 2015 requires on premise servers (from bars, restaurants, taverns and sports bars), along with those checking IDs for alcohol service or bar entry, to successfully complete a BASSET course taught by a BASSET trainer licensed through the Illinois Liquor Control Commission. When the law was passed it was suited to make the mandatory process gradual and mandatory by county and population of those counties. For instance Cook County, the nation's second largest county, was the first to require mandatory training. Additionally, counties with populations of 200,000, or more, became mandatory in 2016. This year it became mandatory for counties with a population of 30,000 – 200,000 people. By July 1, 2018, the remaining 52 counties in Illinois with populations of 30,000 or less will be required to enact BASSET training.



Server training helps reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths, incidents caused by binge drinking, and prevents sales of alcohol to minors. The industry also benefits by providing better customer service, and establishing sound policies, procedures and practices that keep establishments safer and in compliance with local and state laws.

For more information, or if you need additional BASSET certification information, visit our website website at www.illinois.gov/ilcc.



BASSET
Beverage Alcohol Sellers & Servers
Education and Training
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
To Serve and Protect

ILCC News Article suggestions are welcome!

The Commission welcomes your input to enhance the *ILCC News*. If you have a suggestion for an article, topic, or a helpful hint to share with other licensees, please contact the Commission's Chicago Office.

ILCC News is published by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission for state liquor licensees, local government officials, industry associations and related government agencies.

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9th Annual College Town Summit held in Macomb

Representatives from colleges throughout Illinois attended the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's 9th Annual College Town Summit, held on November 9, 2017, at Western Illinois University. Presentations focused on timely topics pertaining to alcohol-related issues on college campuses including: neurological effects of alcohol, binge drinking, sexual assault, prevention, and recovery on college campuses. For the second year in a row the summit included a student panel and exposition.

ILCC would like to thank the staff at Western Illinois University for hosting the event. Next year's College Town Summit will be Thursday, November 1, 2018 at Illinois State University, Alumni Center in Bloomington, IL. For more information about the College Town Summit contact Lee Roupas by sending an email to lee.roupas@illinois.gov.



Industry expert, Bob Pomplun, conducts a break out session.

ILCC BASSET
Program Manager
Lee Roupas
addresses the
attendees.



Dr. Matthew Blankenship from Western Illinois University spoke on the neurological effects of alcohol.



Dr. Eric Davidson from the Illinois Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Other Drug, and Violence Prevention emceed the event.



The student panel gave the students' perspective.

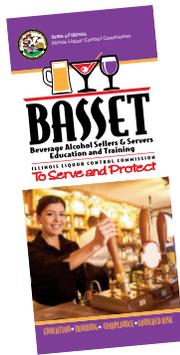


Order ILCC Materials

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, and prevent underage sales of alcohol and information regarding ILCC programs.

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

The Proof of Age Sign should be posted near the entrance of a business, at the bar, or at the point of sale station. It serves as a deterrent to minors attempting to gain entrance in a liquor establishment or purchase alcoholic beverages. The sign reminds servers of the date a person must be (21 years of age) to purchase alcohol.

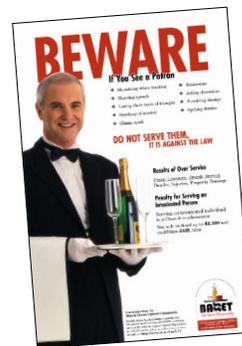


BASSET brochure has all the necessary information regarding BASSET training, expiration and availability of BASSET courses and trainers around the state.

We Card Hard poster, "Not 21, Don't even think about it", sends the message that your servers and ID checkers will "card hard" by checking the ID carefully and be able to spot a fake.



BEWARE backroom poster serves as a reminder to staff to stay within the law of not over-serving patrons. This poster can be displayed in a breakroom or near the time clock at your establishment.



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ILCC BASSET Program

By July 2018, BASSET training will be mandatory in the State of Illinois. A BASSET certification expires in three years. Additional information, including a listing of courses and our licensed BASSET providers, can be found on the ILCC website at www.illinois.gov/ilcc.

Counties requiring BASSET certification by July 1, 2018

Alexander	Hamilton	Pike
Bond	Hancock	Pope
Brown	Hardin	Pulaski
Calhoun	Henderson	Putnam
Carroll	Iroquois	Richland
Cass	Jasper	Saline
Clark	Jersey	Schuyler
Clay	Jo Daviess	Scott
Crawford	Johnson	Shelby
Cumberland	Lawrence	Stark
De Witt	Marshall	Union
Douglas	Mason	Wabash
Edgar	Massac	Warren
Edwards	Menard	Washington
Fayette	Mercer	Wayne
Ford	Moultrie	White
Gallatin	Perry	
Greene	Piatt	

Online liquor license renewal can offer savings

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission's (ILCC) Licensing department would like to remind liquor license holders to renew your license online. The online renewal process saves you time and offers a reduced license fee. For example, by renewing your retail license online it will cost \$600. If you renew in person or by mail it is a \$750 license fee.



If you need assistance with your online renewal, please contact the ILCC Chicago office at 312-814-2206, or the Springfield office at 217-782-2136.