



ILCC News

Volume 30
Fall 2009

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Q&A on the "Video Gaming Act"

To revitalize the State of Illinois' economy and put people back to work, Governor Pat Quinn formally signed the *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction program into law (Public Act 96-0039) on July 13, 2009.

To pay for this program, the *Video Gaming Act* (Public Acts 96-0034, 96-0037, and 96-0038) will allow for video gaming terminals to be placed in the State of Illinois. Following are answers to some of the more frequently asked questions regarding this new law.

Q: What is a video gaming terminal?

A: Any electronic video game machine that, upon insertion of cash, is available to play or simulate the play of a video game (e.g., video poker, line up, blackjack, etc.). Terminals cannot directly dispense coins, cash, or tokens; however, players may receive free games or credits (including receipt tickets) that can be redeemed for cash.

Q: Is a license required to place a video gaming terminal in your establishment?

A: Yes. A valid license issued by the Illinois Gaming Board (IGB) is required to place a video gaming terminal in your establishment. Those found without a proper license are subject to a Class A misdemeanor, with subsequent offenses subject to a Class 4 felony.

Q: Where will video gaming be allowed?

A: In liquor-licensed establishments where "on-premise" consumption of alcohol is allowed (e.g., bars and restaurants), and in truck stops and fraternal/veterans organizations.

Q: Are terminals allowed anywhere inside a licensed establishment?

A: No. Video gaming terminals must be located in an area restricted to persons over 21 years of age, with entrance to this area within view of at least one employee over 21 years of age.

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See page 3 for ILCC regional meetings

Q: How many video gaming terminals will be allowed at each site?

A: Up to five machines may be placed at each licensed establishment.

Q: Can local jurisdictions restrict the use of video gaming terminals?

A: Yes. Incorporated municipalities and counties (which will regulate licensed establishments in unincorporated areas) can prohibit video gaming terminals within their jurisdiction by passing an ordinance or through successful passage of a voter referendum.

Q: Will other regulations be put in place regarding video gaming?

A: Yes. As the agency in charge of administration and enforcement of the Video Gaming Act, the IGB is responsible for developing final rules and regulations. As of press time, the IGB has not projected a start date for video gaming in Illinois.

Please note, many questions will be answered through the rulemaking process, so visit the "Latest News" section on our home page www.state.il.us/LCC periodically to check for updated information on the Video Gaming Act when it becomes available.

Underage alcohol sales still a problem



During the months of May through July, the liquor licenses of nearly three in ten retailers were either fined, suspended, or revoked after selling alcohol to minors as part of an ongoing crackdown by Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) special agents.

These operations, which feature minors attempting to purchase alcohol, are conducted throughout Illinois in conjunction with state and local law enforcement personnel (at right are the results of the May-July 2009 compliance check operations).

You can avoid making the same costly mistake as the retailers above by ensuring you and your staff are properly trained. Please turn to page 6 to learn more about the Liquor Commission's BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Seller/Server Education & Training) Program.

Underage Compliance Stats Summary

MONTH OF DETAILS	COMPLIANCE RATE
May 2009	74%
June 2009	63%
July 2009	71%
TOTAL	71%



FREE cashmat available

To assist licensees in identifying underage ID cards, the Liquor Commission has developed a countertop mat, or cashmat, to be displayed wherever alcohol is sold. The popular 15x10 inch

mat includes a graphic representation of all current underage ID cards as well as a listing of penalties on BOTH the seller and customer when alcohol is purchased for underage consumption. To order your FREE cashmat today, please visit www.state.il.us/LCC/mat.asp.

ILCC News Article suggestions are welcome!

The Commission welcomes your input to enhance the ILCC News publication. 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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ILCC regional meetings continue throughout the state

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) continues to host regional meetings for local officials and licensees throughout the state.

This past June, ILCC administrators met with nearly one hundred mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, county chairpersons, and state's attorneys in Galesburg and Princeton. Held at the start of the summer driving season and just prior to the 4th of July holiday weekend, the June 18 meetings focused on drunk driving prevention strategies.

One topic, in particular, was discussed in detail: the mandating of BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Seller/Server Education & Training) in local communities. Among those sharing ideas on how to prevent alcohol-related tragedies were staffers from the Illinois State Police, Illinois Secretary of State's Office, Princeton Police Department, and the Renaissance Rock Island Entertainment District.

The ILCC regional meetings are presented by the Commission's public education arm—the *Don't Be Sorry* program—which is partially funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety. Additional funding and/or assistance for the June 18 meetings was provided by the City of Galesburg (Mayor Sal Garza and City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz), Bureau County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff John Thompson), Bureau/Putnam County Health Department (Dawn Conerton), and the Knox County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (Cheryl Geitner and Debby Jo Metsker).



"College Town Summit" set for September 22

The next regional meeting, scheduled for **Tuesday, September 22, 10am-2:30pm** in Springfield, will specifically address alcohol-related issues unique to college communities. Entitled *College Town Summit '09: Controlling College-Age Alcohol Use*, the purpose of this inaugural summit is to explore how state, local, and school officials can best work together to control underage drinking and the over-consumption of alcohol for this at-risk age group.

The summit's format is designed to encourage a lively exchange of ideas. Interactive panel discussions will allow those in attendance to share their experiences, and delve further into issues that directly affect their community's safety and college learning environment.

Space is quite limited, however, if you are a college town official or school administrator and would like to attend this meeting, please visit www.DontBeSorry.org/Summit.htm by September 16 to check on space availability.



Updated Handbook available

The Local Liquor Commissioner's Handbook has been updated and is available to all local officials — including mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, city managers, village trustees, and county chairs. To order this FREE book,

visit the web at www.state.il.us/LCC/LLhandbook.asp.



Illinois Liquor Control Commission

KNOW THE LAWS



Confused about underage drinking laws?

Illinois laws regarding underage drinking and the use of fake ID's change frequently and can often be difficult to comprehend.

To better assist *all* residents in their knowledge on the facts, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) has published a comprehensive, but easy to understand, one-page piece with updated information on the legalities and penalties concerning alcohol, minors and fake ID's.

This fact sheet was created through the ILCC's *Don't Be Sorry* program — which is partially funded by an Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety grant — with

assistance from Toshiko Lukens of the Illinois Secretary of State Driver Services Division.

To order this piece (which is also available in Spanish), please visit www.DontBeSorry.org, where you can also review a variety of other underage drinking information including the latest research, health/social consequences, and more.



Plainfield Central HS students' persistence enacts tobacco law

Through the persistence of seven Plainfield High School student activists, tobacco licensing for unincorporated Will County is now a reality. While the students embarked on this educational and sometimes frustrating journey to promote the health of their peer group they also received first-hand experience to the processes involved in local government.

Each student is a member of the National Honor Society and worked in conjunction with an advocacy model developed by the University of Illinois' Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD). The model, "Engaging Youth for

Positive Change," provides activities and ideas that empower young people to act as advocates for positive community change. The model guides students while they work with their local governments to adopt substance abuse prevention related ordinances. For example, policies that discourage underage alcohol and tobacco use.

Participation in the program includes understanding how local policy affects their lives; gathering and analyzing local data; experiencing their local government in action; interacting with community leaders; and engaging the community in the advocacy effort. Other cities utilizing the CPRD model include Chicago, Buffalo Grove and Champaign.

The students chose tobacco licensing because they felt it would have the most significant impact to their peer group. Their activities included drafting the ordinance; developing amendments in response to opposition; and attending multiple Will County Committee hearings which included opportunities to voice their opinions during the debate process. The ordinance also includes vendor education and enforcement components.

The students worked under the direction of Joan Leigh from the Grundy/Kendall Regional Education Office and their faculty advisor Patricia Decker.



Plainfield High School National Honor Society students address the Will County Board on June 18 regarding the proposed retail tobacco licensing ordinance. Left to right are David Gloria (at the lectern), Allen Babu, Sumaiya Saad, Brittany Arnold, Ala Salameh, and John Egner. Missing is Brayana Luna.

Tobacco Enforcement Program finishes successful year – looks to record participation in FY 2010

By Jeff Barr, ILCC Tobacco Manager

May brought the conclusion of the FY 2009 Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP), marked by the third and final round of compliance checks in participating communities. Illinois' tobacco retailers continue to demonstrate low Retail Violation Rates (RVR) to minimum-age tobacco laws. The results of these checks are shown below.

FY 2009 Tobacco Enforcement Program

METHOD OF SALE	RETAIL VIOLATION RATE PERCENT			
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Over-the-Counter	10.4	8.7	6.9	8.7
Vending Machines	4.5	1.3	1.9	2.6
TOTAL	10.1	8.4	6.7	8.5
CLERK INTERVENTION				
No Age or ID Requested	51.3	49.3	18.3	49.9
Age and ID Requested	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.4
ID Only Requested	4.2	4.3	3.2	3.9
Age Only Requested	7.0	5.3	1.8	5.1

Similar to previous years, the data reinforces the importance of age verification. When the clerk did not ask for the customer's age or ID, the RVR was nearly 50 percent. In all other categories, the RVR was 5.1 percent or less (see "Clerk intervention" section of chart at lower left).

A trend noticed by the Commission during recent Synar compliance checks, is an increase in the number of clerks that ask for the date of birth of the customer in lieu of physically checking an ID. This is an unacceptable practice in that it allows minors to give a false date of birth.

The first step in preventing underage sales is requesting the customer's ID, No ID – No Sell



Liquor tax rate changes

Effective September 1, 2009, the Illinois Liquor Tax rate increased for alcohol invoiced on or after this date. Below are the new per gallon rates for each Illinois liquor classification:

- Cider (0.5% to 7% alcohol) and beer = **\$0.231**
- Wine = **\$1.39**
- Other alcoholic liquor (less than 20%) = **\$1.39**
- Spirits (20% or more) = **\$8.55**

Please note, there is no floor stock tax imposed on a manufacturer's or an importing distributor's inventory on hand. The new rate increases apply when the alcoholic beverage is **invoiced for sale** by the manufacturer or importing distributor. Likewise, there is no floor tax imposed on a liquor retailer.

For further information regarding the tax rate changes, please visit the Illinois Department of Revenue's website at www.tax.illinois.gov.

BASSET on the web

Visit the BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training) website at www.state.il.us/LCC/basset to lay down the law for potential underage persons who can put your business in jeopardy. Click on the “Training Class Directory” link on the left side of the screen to locate a BASSET class in your area. To better assist you in your search, a clickable map by Illinois region — as well as one for the Chicagoland area — is provided showing the location of BASSET providers.

You can also order the “Card Hard” pack for your business. The **FREE** pack includes a door decal, ID checking brochure, and poster with the famous ILCC slogan “We Card Hard.” Get the message out there that your place will **CARD HARD**.

For more information about the BASSET program or to order your free materials, including the new backroom posters and other materials shown below, please contact Lee Roupas at 312.814.0773 or online at www.state.il.us/LCC/basset.



Players and retailers win with Lottery's first \$30 instant game

The Illinois Lottery recently unveiled its first-ever \$30 instant game — “\$30 Million Cash Spectacular.” This game offers a higher percent of payout than any other game in Lottery history — over 78 percent of sales is returned to players in prizes. The \$30 Million Cash Spectacular game offers 20 prizes between \$1 million and \$3 million, and is the first instant game in the Lottery's 35-year history to offer \$3 million prizes!

Lottery retailers win big, too, with \$30 Million Cash Spectacular. For each ticket sold, retailers receive a \$1.50 commission. In addition, \$30,000 winning-ticket bonuses will be paid to retailers who sell one of the \$3 million prizes.

Lottery products are a great fit for most bars and packaged liquor stores.

If you own such a business and don't already sell Lottery, you may want to join the ranks of Lottery retailers. Applying is easy, and only costs \$50. You may download an application at the Lottery's website — www.illinoislottery.com. You will find the application at the bottom of the Lottery's Frequently Asked Questions page.



Visit our booth at the ILBA trade show!

If you have any questions for the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, please visit our booth during the 124th Annual Illinois Licensed Beverage Association Convention at the Rockford Clock Tower Resort on Monday, September 14. Liquor Commission staff will be on hand to personally address any issues you may have, plus distribute a variety of free materials for your establishment.

Save time and money: *Illinois e-Services*

As a liquor licensee, you can already file your ST-1 — Sales and Use Tax return — using the Illinois Department of Revenue's (IDOR) *e-Services for Businesses*. The e-Services are available at www.tax.illinois.gov and provide the following advantages:

- Secure, paperless transactions
- Fast and easy filing
- Proof of filing and payment
- Reduction in filing errors

The popular **Sale & Use Tax WebFile & Pay** portion of e-Services for Businesses now includes a stand-alone electronic payment option for ST-1 balance due amounts and RR-3, quarter monthly payments. These payments can be paid directly through the department's website. The payments are available free of charge and no special registration is necessary, all you need is your valid sales tax account ID and your business banking information.

Also available through e-Services for Businesses is the new **WebFile & Pay for Withholding Income Tax**. The filing and



payment option allows taxpayers to file their IL-941, Illinois Quarterly Withholding Income Tax Return, or IL-941-A, Illinois Yearly Withholding Income Tax Return, and make a payment for any balance due. Illinois Withholding Installment Payments (IL-501) can also be made. All you need is your valid FEIN and business banking information.

Other ST-1 filing options include **TeleFile** (ie, filing via a phone) and through **Tax-Preparation Software**.

For more information regarding any of the above filing and payment options, visit www.tax.illinois.gov on the web or contact the IDOR's Electronic Commerce Division at 217.524.4767.

Karen Cole says goodbye

Former Legal Division Paralegal Karen Cole has left the Liquor Commission and started a new position at the U.S. Department of Labor on July 20, 2009.

Many of you may know Karen either through phone conversations or in person at Board of Commissioners meetings.

"I have enjoyed my tenure at the Liquor Commission, and appreciated the opportunity to work with everyone I've met," she says. "Even though I will miss my colleagues at the Commission, I am looking forward to this new challenge and to starting a new phase of my career."

We wish Karen the best in her new position.



Karen Cole, moving up the former Sears Tower to raise money for cancer research, is moving on to the federal government.

A friendly tip from your ILCC agent



Did you know your liquor liability insurance is likely not active if your license has expired? For this reason alone, it is critical to remember the date of when your liquor license will expire.

Consider the consequences on you and the public: Should an incident occur after the expiration date on your license, not only is your livelihood put in jeopardy, but the general public is left unprotected. Additionally, a distributor will not sell alcohol to a liquor establishment if the license has expired.

Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) special agents hope you avoid the above situation by remembering to renew on time! When it comes to liquor-related questions, our agents can provide other sage advice as well. So, when an ILCC agent schedules a visit to your establishment, it would be a good idea to prepare any questions you may have prior to the agent's arrival.

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ILCC materials today!**

The following FREE Liquor Commission materials are available to all licensees by visiting our home page www.state.il.us/LCC and clicking on the "Industry Education Materials" link, located on the right side of the screen:

- Overview of the ILCC and Industry Education Guide.
- Illinois Liquor Control Act and ILCC/BASSET Rules and Regulations.
- "Happy Hour Law" and "Just the Facts" fliers.
- Alcohol "Proof of Age" and "Pregnancy Warning" signs.
- BASSET Program Brochure and *Quick Guide for Servers*.

