



# ILCC News

Volume XVII  
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[www.state.il.us/lcc](http://www.state.il.us/lcc)

## A Letter from the Chairman

**R**unning a successful business today is more difficult than ever. There are laws to follow, bills to pay, employees to care for, and taxes to file. In an effort to help you meet these ongoing challenges, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) will focus on ways to maximize your business potential in this issue of *ILCC News*.

With the start of a new year, your thoughts may begin to turn to that inescapable chore in American life—paying your taxes. On page 7, we list three quick and straightforward methods for filing your liquor sales tax returns. The New Year also requires new signage. On page 5, you will find ordering instructions for the 2006 tobacco and liquor “proof of age” signs, along with a variety of other new ILCC materials.



Believe it or not, spring is right around the corner. With the warmer weather comes more outdoor activities, such as special events. To keep current on the liquor laws governing special events, please turn to page 4 for details on how to order the new, business-friendly “How to Apply for a Special Event Liquor License” DVD. Copies of this ILCC-produced video are available free-of-charge.

As always, if you are unclear on any other issues relative to the operation of your business, please contact the ILCC at 312-814-2206. We take pride in our ability to serve your needs.

Finally, do your children—or your employee’s children—have medical insurance? On page 3, we describe a new, innovative program that will provide comprehensive health insurance for *All Kids* in Illinois. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission wishes you and your business a happy, healthy, and successful New Year.

Irving J. Koppel  
Chairman  
Illinois Liquor Control Commission

## Director's Note: Attacking a "minor" problem? Hardly



There is no doubt that many of you have friends or neighbors who believe underage drinking is not a serious concern. They may even say "Well, at least Johnny wasn't doing drugs" if their minor son was caught drinking alcohol.

I am sure our friends in the liquor industry would beg to differ. These folks will be the first to tell you that underage drinking is not a "minor" problem. It affects us all—whether in the pocketbook or in the heart.

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission understands this and will unveil a pair of new programs in 2006 to address this concern. One will attack underage drinking on the frontline, at the liquor store and the bar stool; while the other focuses on the mind, by raising awareness of the issue.

Over the next few months, the Liquor Commission will be implementing a new compliance check program featuring minors attempting to buy alcohol. Our other new initiative, a public education campaign, will shine a spotlight on the "real" consequences of underage drinking—for teens, parents, licensees, and the community as a whole.

You will be hearing a lot more about these two new initiatives in the next few months. In the meantime, now would be a good time to implement seller/server training for your employees.

Classes are offered throughout Illinois by state-licensed *BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training)* providers. Many communities and businesses already require mandatory training for their employees. Not only will you help save lives, but *BASSET* training can also reduce the cost of a licensee's liquor liability insurance. (You can view our most recent group of licensees at the bottom of this page.)

For more details on the above programs, please visit our website at [www.state.il.us/LCC](http://www.state.il.us/LCC) or give us a call at 312-814-2206.

Michael J. Malone  
Executive Director  
Illinois Liquor Control Commission

## New BASSET licensees

### AUGUST

- City of Elmhurst
- Creative Marketing

### OCTOBER

- Aramark — UIC Pavilion
- Jersey's Pizza

### NOVEMBER

- Regulatory Compliance Services, Inc.

### DECEMBER

- Collinsville Holiday Inn
- Elgin Riverboat Casino
- Outback Steakhouse
- Safe Dining Association

See page 6 for more details about the *BASSET* program, or call 312.814.0773.

## 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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## Do your children have comprehensive health coverage?

Pre-registration for *All Kids* now underway...

**D**o your children have health insurance? Many small business owners and part-time employees work hard and earn decent salaries, but the cost of medical insurance continues to skyrocket. As a result, affordable options to pay for their children's health care are simply out of reach for many middle-income families.

Perhaps you—or one of your employees—have one of Illinois' 250,000 children without health insurance. More than half of these youth come from working- and middle-class families who earn too much to qualify for state programs like *KidCare*, but cannot afford private health insurance. Should one of these uninsured children face a medical emergency, their family will undoubtedly face serious financial challenges.

To combat this problem, Gov. Blagojevich is offering *All Kids*—a program that makes comprehensive health insurance available to children. Pre-registration is now underway for a program that covers doctor's visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care, and medical devices like eye glasses and asthma inhalers.

### How does it work?

Unlike private insurance that is too expensive for so many families, the rates for *All Kids* coverage will be much lower and based on a family's income. For example, a family with two children that earns between \$40,000 and \$59,999 a year will pay a \$40 monthly premium per child and a \$10 co-pay for each doctor visit. However, there will be no co-pays for preventative care visits, such as annual immunizations and regular check ups and screenings for vision, hearing, appropriate development, or preventative dental care.

A primary care physician will ensure that your child gets needed immunizations and other preventative health care services. Patients with chronic conditions like asthma or diabetes will have a single care manager to make sure they are getting the treatments and ongoing care they need to avoid acute care. This physician will make referrals to specialists for additional care or tests as needed.

### Who is eligible and how do I enroll?

Children ages 18 years and under who live with their families in Illinois and who need health insurance can get *All Kids*. Once it

is determined that your child is eligible for the *All Kids* program, you will choose a primary physician to manage your child's care.

Pre-registration is now available by calling **1-866-ALL-KIDS**.

After the initial call, a form will be sent by mail. Families can also pre-register for *All Kids* online at [www.allkidscovered.com](http://www.allkidscovered.com). (NOTE: Children currently in the *KidCare* program will be automatically enrolled in *All Kids* and do not have to reapply.)

### Can Illinois afford this?

By ensuring patients get adequate preventative care on the front end, fewer people will need expensive specialized treatment or emergency care for critical conditions. Twenty-nine other states have realized significant savings by using a "primary care case management" model for their Medicaid programs. Based on independent analyses, the State estimates it will save \$56 million in the first year by implementing this model for participants in both *FamilyCare* and *All Kids* health care programs, while the cost of *All Kids* is expected to be \$45 million.

There are strong economic reasons for insuring all children. Research indicates that delayed treatment can result in more complex, more threatening, and more expensive care later. Over the past two and a half years, the Blagojevich administration has worked hard to expand health coverage for low-income, working parents and their children. Since January of 2003, 170,000 more children in Illinois received health insurance, and Illinois is now ranked as the second best state in the nation by the Kaiser Family Foundation for providing health care to children who need it.

For more information and to pre-register for *All Kids*, visit [www.allkidscovered.com](http://www.allkidscovered.com), or call **1-866-ALL-KIDS**.



## Holding a special event? How to stay within the law...

While the temperature outside may belie the fact, spring is rapidly approaching, and outside activities featuring alcohol consumption will soon become more prevalent.



Order your FREE copy of the ILCC's "How to Apply for a Special Event" DVD! See ordering instructions at right.

One question that our licensees frequently ask is: Do I need a liquor license for my special event to be in compliance with the law? There are, of course, many extenuating circumstances that determine whether an event requires

additional licensing, but let's take a look at a couple of the more common activities we'll soon be seeing as the weather turns warmer:

- *Golf outings featuring alcohol:* Many organizations host golf outings as a major fundraising activity. If the golf course has a liquor license and is serving the alcohol, there is no need for the hosting organization to get a special event license. Likewise, the licensed golf club need not apply for a special use permit as the event is held within its licensed premises.
- *Outdoor festivals featuring alcohol:* Now, let's say you're planning the annual spring street fair for your non-profit organization. If your organization is in charge of serving the alcohol, you will need to apply for a **Special Event License**. Should an existing liquor licensee host the event at a location other than its licensed premise, the licensed retailer will need to acquire a **Special Use Permit**.

Please remember, it is **your** responsibility as the license holder to ensure that guests are not overserved. The *Happy Hour Law* prohibits serving guests an unlimited number of drinks during a set period of time for a fixed price. The only exception to this law is a **private function** (see "What is a private function?" box right).

To ensure that alcohol is served responsibly at your event, the Liquor Commission suggests that at least two of your staff attend alcohol server training. For a list of state-approved *BASSET* (*Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training*) providers near you, please call 312-814-0773 or visit our website at [www.state.il.us/LCC](http://www.state.il.us/LCC).

### How do I apply for the needed licenses?

To make the process of applying for one of the above licenses less intimidating, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission has produced a DVD entitled *How to Apply For a Special Event License*. Designed for both non-profit organizations and licensed retail establishments, this short video presentation provides step-by-step instructions and tips on how to stay within the law. To order your FREE copy, please visit our website at [www.state.il.us/LCC](http://www.state.il.us/LCC) or call 312-814-4802.

Still not convinced it's worthwhile to view the DVD? **Many local liquor commissioners have already ordered the DVD.** With your local officials receiving a brief refresher course on the law, it is now more important than ever to follow all state rules and regulations. (*Please keep in mind that your computer must have a DVD drive—this is different from a CD drive—for the video to be seen on your monitor. If the disk does not play on your computer, you can view the program on any DVD player attached to your television set.*)

Lastly, if you have any additional questions, we are here to answer them for you. Please give us a call at 312-814-2206.

### What is a private function?

The only exception to serving an unlimited number of drinks for a fixed price (per the *Happy Hour Law*)—is when your event is a **private function**.

As defined per the Illinois Liquor Control Act (235 ILCS 5/1-3.36), a "private function" means a prearranged private party, function, or event for a specific social or business occasion, either by invitation or reservation and not open to the general public, where the guests in attendance are served in a room or rooms designated and used exclusively for the private party, function, or event.

## New ILCC materials

Illinois is one of the few states in the nation that provides posters, training guides, and brochures to combat underage drinking and alcohol misuse. Please hang the posters in your establishments and pass on the information to your servers to assist the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) in its efforts to prevent underage sales and alcohol-related mishaps. For more information, or to order materials, please contact Lee Roupas at 312-814-0773 or email [Lee\\_Roupas@cms.state.il.us](mailto:Lee_Roupas@cms.state.il.us)

### Alcohol Age Sign

Throughout 2006, 1985 is the date that a person's birthday should be on or before the current date.

### "We Card Hard" Poster

Using the famous ILCC slogan, "We Card Hard," this full-color poster (12.5" w X 15.5" h) depicts a stern looking bouncer, carefully checking information on a young woman's driver's license. Appropriate for display in any area to send a strong message that your establishment "cards hard" and will not serve minors.



## Order your Tobacco Kit today!

The Tobacco Retailer Kit is designed to provide additional support to community leaders and retailers in their effort to facilitate compliance to minimum-age tobacco laws.

The kit includes a review of state minimum-age tobacco laws, required signage, training guides for managers and clerks on age verification techniques, and various point-of-sale posters that bring a humorous tone to the issue of age verification. In addition, the kits are effective in reducing the number of requests made by underage minors and reduce the anxiety clerks commonly feel when asking customers for age verification.

To order your Tobacco Retailer Kit, please call 312-814-6884.

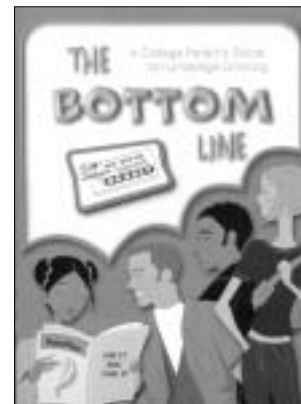
### Alcohol Poisoning Brochure

The new alcohol poisoning brochure titled, "My best friend died. I don't want you to." is written as a testimonial from a young woman, whose best friend dies after a night of binge drinking. The brochure provides the human perspective to alcohol poisoning, as well as informative facts on the effects of alcohol on the body.



### College Parent's Guide

"The Bottom Line" is an invaluable resource for parents to read and share with their underage college kids. The guide contains comprehensive information for parents on underage drinking, suggestions for parents on how to deal with the issue, and the consequences and the costs involved with underage drinking.



### "NOTICE" Poster

This poster notifies those purchasing alcohol that they must provide proof of age and lists the acceptable forms of identification required by law.



## S.I.P. founder selected as the BASSET Trainer-of-the-Quarter

By Lee J. Roupas, ILCC BASSET Program Manager



Lisa McCoy

Lisa McCoy started conducting server training classes four years ago. She had a two-year layoff due to family obligations and recently renewed her *Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training* (BASSET) license. But this time, she created her own program!

The Vernon Hills resident called her new BASSET program the Server Intervention Program (SIP). She wrote her own manual and had the program copyrighted, which she proclaims, is “not an everyday BASSET class.”

What makes McCoy’s program unique is the “hands on” involvement from the students and heavy emphasis placed on

class participation. She teaches her classes based upon her own experiences over the past seven years in the hospitality industry.

What McCoy enjoys most about being a BASSET trainer is when people enjoy her class and appreciate the respect participants give her as an experienced BASSET trainer and veteran in the industry.

She encourages servers to “take their own experiences and be responsible for what they are doing.” She adds, “Servers could be holding someone else’s life in their own hands and they should respect life.”

In her spare time McCoy enjoys riding her motorcycle, going out with friends, playing softball and spending time with her eight-year old daughter, Marissa.



## Saving lives can save livelihoods too

By Lee J. Roupas, ILCC BASSET Program Manager

An ideal night at a liquor-serving establishment would be: Everyone consuming alcoholic beverages is 21 and over, no one is overserved, there are no fights, there is no property damage, it is a profitable night for the business, all patrons enjoyed themselves, and all got home safely. This type of night could keep businesses in compliance, free from fines and closure.

Unfortunately, problem-free nights do not always occur where liquor is served. Some nights could end in tragedy due to alcohol-related mishaps. Problems happen because of over-service, over-consumption, and persons under the age of 21 purchasing and consuming alcohol.

Liquor licensees must be diligent to make sure they and their employees stay within the law, and that law states: “No one may serve or sell alcohol to someone who is visibly intoxicated.” They also have the responsibility to make sure no one under the age of 21 purchases alcohol in their establishment. The consequences can devastate both patrons and the business. The

community may also suffer a loss of tax revenue or end up paying for costly property damage.

Overserving or allowing minors into a business that serves alcohol is not worth the consequences. It can mean the loss of life, fines to an establishment, and possible closure of someone’s livelihood. Selling another drink when someone is intoxicated or making a sale off a minor is not prudent just to “make an extra buck” if a customer is killed. That “extra buck” can cost you a lot more in the long run.

### Training available

The ILCC has partnered with mayors, local liquor commissioners and area law enforcement to host education and training seminars to give the licensees an opportunity to be informed and ask questions to the state, local, and law enforcement officials.

*continued on page 7*

Seminars will consist of brief, informative presentations from the mayor, police and representative from the ILCC. The ILCC will provide a presentation from the BASSET program along with the Secretary of State's Operation Straight ID program. To request an education and training seminar in your town contact the ILCC at 312-814-0773.

## e-Services makes it easy to file your sales tax returns



As a liquor licensee, you can file your ST-1, Sales and Use Tax return, using the Illinois Department of Revenue's e-Services. E-Services now has three different electronic filing options for sales tax. These options provide secure transactions, are fast and easy, provide proof of filing and paying, reduce errors, are convenient, and paperless.

The most popular filing option is **Sales and Use Tax Web Filing**. This option is available for free through the Department of Revenue's website: [www.tax.illinois.gov](http://www.tax.illinois.gov). Last year over 117,000 returns were filed using this filing option.

For those that prefer to use the telephone, **TeleFile** is another viable option. Pick up the phone and keypunch in your return information. Over 102,000 returns were filed last year using the telephone.

The newest electronic filing option is for **Tax-Preparation Software**. If you are currently using software to prepare your sales and use tax returns, notify your software company that you are interested in filing these returns electronically instead of printing and mailing them.

For more information regarding any of the above filing options, visit [tax.illinois.gov](http://tax.illinois.gov) on the web or contact the Department of Revenue's Electronic Commerce Division at 217-524-4767.

## Are you a top ten violator?

Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) special agents issue thousands of dollars in fines each day for infractions where liquor licensees are simply unaware of the law. For example, did you know the Illinois Liquor Control Act requires all licensees to post a government warning sign indicating the dangers of alcohol to pregnant woman?

You can order this sign—along with all the liquor rules and regulations—by ordering our FREE packet of materials (see back page for ordering instructions). Meanwhile, it would be in your business' best interest to ensure the violations listed below are taken care of before you are visited by an ILCC investigator.

### FY 2004 top ten violations:

- 1) Contaminated liquor (1,342).
- 2) Sale to minors (489).
- 3) Pregnancy warning sign not displayed (482).
- 4) State license not displayed (336).
- 5) Revenue certificate not attached to coin-operated amusement devices (318).
- 6) IBT (Illinois Business Tax) certificate not available (245).
- 7) 90 days of invoices (or waiver) not available (236).
- 8) Unsanitary taps (212).
- 9) Gambling on premises (174).
- 10) Tap cleaning record not kept (145).

### FY 2005 top ten violations:

- 1) Contaminated liquor (835).
- 2) Sale to minors (428).
- 3) Pregnancy warning sign not displayed (274)
- 4t) State license not displayed (207).
- 4t) Revenue certificate not attached to coin-operated amusement devices (207).
- 6) Gambling on premises (203).
- 7) 90 days of invoices (or waiver) not available (198).
- 8) IBT (Illinois Business Tax) certificate not available (187).
- 9) Liquor purchased at retail (110).
- 10) Unsanitary taps (107).

(Note: Fiscal years run from July 1 – June 30)

# Illinois Liquor Control Commission



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## Order your FREE ILCC materials today!

The following FREE Liquor Commission materials are available to all licensees by calling **312.814.4802**:

- 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 Age-Verification Guide.
- "We Card Hard" decal and Liquor Licensee Employee Training Guide.

