



ILCC News

Volume 49
Fall 2015

Q&A on new Happy Hour Law changes



One of the most talked about pieces of legislation this past spring, the *Culinary and Hospitality Modernization Act* (Senate Bill 398), was signed into law by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner on July 15, 2015 (Public Act 99-0046).

Sponsored by Senator Antonio Munoz and Representative Sara Feigenholtz, the new law reinstates many previously banned “happy hour” practices and expands the Cook County server/bouncer training law statewide (see page 6 for more on this aspect of the law).

To gain a better understanding of what is now allowed under the new law, following are some frequently asked questions regarding Public Act 99-0046 which went into effect on July 15, 2015.

Will I be able to offer “happy hour” specials by temporarily reducing the price of drinks at my establishment?

Yes. This legislation permits licensees to offer discounted drinks for up to 4 hours per day, and not more than 15 hours per week. The specified drink promotional period does not have to be for 4 consecutive hours.

What are the additional rules and restrictions on price reductions?

Licensees must adhere to the following stipulations on price reductions on drinks:

- Licensee must give notice of the discount of alcohol drinks on the licensee’s premises or on their website 7 days prior to the specified drink promotion period.
- Licensee shall not offer a specified drink promotion period between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and the licensed premise’s closing hour.
- Licensee shall not change the price of an alcoholic drink during a single drink promotion period.

When can I start reducing prices as part of happy hour?

No earlier than 7 days after the license holder has given notice of the discount of alcohol drinks at its licensed location or on its website.

Can I provide unlimited drinks for a single price?

No. Drink limits are required unless the drinks are part of a meal/party package or private function.

Continued on p.3

Inside This Issue

BASSET law now in effect in Cook County	2
College Town Summit	2
Infusions.....	3
YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!.....	4
BASSET going statewide....	6
New BASSET providers	6
Quick quiz for retailers	6
Required training dates.....	7
Regional meetings	8

See page 6 for statewide BASSET mandate

Cook County BASSET law now in effect

If you are an alcohol server in Cook County, there's still time to comply with the law. While mandatory alcohol server training did, indeed, go into effect throughout the county on July 1, 2015, the law proscribes for an "educational period" through the end of the year.

In other words, your alcohol servers have until January 1, 2016 to successfully complete a **Beverage Alcohol Sellers/Servers Education & Training (BASSET)** class before any penalties kick in!

Free classes help with server compliance

Thanks to our site hosts and training partners, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) was able to conduct nearly 50 free classes throughout Cook County. The ILCC wishes to express its gratitude to all our partners for their support in this important endeavor.

We also encourage you to contact one of the gracious trainers listed below, who selflessly shared their extensive knowledge and valuable time in teaching our free training sessions for no charge (instruction provided in English only unless otherwise indicated):

- **Asian Health Coalition**
(Chinese/English trainers): 312-372-7070
- **Envisage Strategy**
(Spanish/English trainers): 312-508-3709
- **Kimberly Haynes: 773-236-7456**
- **Illinois Licensed Beverage Certification**
(English/Spanish trainers): 815-714-2450
- **Rachel Miklas, BASSET Chicago: 312-473-7831**



The Village of Harwood Heights was the first to sign up as hosts for the free Cook County BASSET class schedule, with Mayor Arlene Jezierny (above, providing opening remarks to students during the May 13 class) playing a key role.

- **Carlos Morales**
(Spanish/English trainer): 630-325-1848
- **Prevention Partnership: 773-378-4195**
- **Michelle Ressel: 708-872-7226**
- **Thomas Robertson: 773-370-4180**
- **Darryl Stroud: 708-513-7323**
- **Denese Thulin, ILBA: 630-896-7906**
- **Unity Parenting & Counseling: 312-455-0007**
- **Rob Zimmerman, Hospitality One: 847-451-1040**

For the complete list of licensed BASSET providers in Illinois, enter "Training Class Directory" in the search form located at the upper right of the ILCC.illinois.gov

SAVE THE DATE! College Town Summit is November 18

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission's 7th Annual College Town Summit (CTS15) has been set for **Wednesday, November 18, 10am-3pm.**

This year's summit will feature dual site hosts—Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and Eastern Illinois University—with videoconferencing of the opening presentations and closing review sessions.

Over the past few months, the CTS15 Steering Committee—featuring elected officials, school

administrators, prevention professionals, hospitality industry representatives, and law enforcement personnel—has been hard at work planning the agenda for this year's event. As in past years, presentations and discussions will continue to address high-risk alcohol use by college-age students

To register for CTS15 and review past summits, please visit www.DontBeSorry.org. If you have any questions, please contact ILCC Education Manager Ted Penesis at 312-814-4802 or ted.penesis@illinois.gov.

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 leaders, industry associations, prevention professionals, elected officials, and other interested parties.

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Q&A on new Happy Hour Law changes *(cont'd. from page 1)*

Am I allowed to sell “meal packages” with food and alcohol? What does that entail?

Yes. "Meal package" means a food & beverage package, which may or may not include entertainment, where the service of alcoholic liquor is an accompaniment to the food, including, but not limited to: a meal, tour, tasting, or any combination thereof for a fixed price by a retail licensee or any other licensee operating within a sports facility, restaurant, winery, brewery, or distillery.

Is there a limit on the number of drinks which may be served with a meal package? No. There is no limit to the number of drinks included with a meal package.

What is considered “food” for purposes of a meal package?

Any food, including snacks and other so-called “finger food,” that is available on the licensed premises as long as the food and alcoholic drinks are sold as a package for a fixed price.

Am I allowed to sell “party packages,” such as wristband deals for a private event? What are the regulations?

Yes. "Party package" means a private party, function, or event for a specific social or business occasion, either arranged by invitation or reservation for a defined number of individuals, that is not open to the general public and where attendees are served both food and alcohol for a fixed price in a DEDICATED EVENT space. In order to sell a party package, a business must:

- Offer food in the dedicated event space.
- Limit the party package to no more than 3 hours.
- Distribute wristbands, lanyards, or shirts that designate party package attendees.
- Exclude individuals not participating in the party package from the dedicated event space.

Is there a limit on the number of drinks which may be served with a party package? No. There is no limit on the number of drinks allowed to be included with a party package.

What is considered “food” for purposes of a party package? Any food, including snacks and other so-called “finger food,” that is available on the licensed premises.

Private functions as defined in the Liquor Control Act (235 ILCS 5/1-3.36) have always been an exception to the prohibition on unlimited drinks; are private functions now limited to 3 hours? No. Private functions such as weddings, private parties, fund-raising functions, etc., where “guests in attendance are served in a room or rooms designated and used exclusively for the private party, function or event” (235 ILCS 5/1-3.36) are not subjected to a time limit.

How can alcoholic drinks be sold and served to a customer?

- 1) You may serve two or more drinks to one customer at one time;
- 2) You may not sell two or more drinks for the price of one drink;
- 3) You must increase the price of a drink proportionately to an increase in the volume of the same drink (Example: The price of a 24 ounce draft of Brand X beer must cost twice as much as a 12 ounce draft of Brand X beer).

Can I sell or serve a pitcher, bottle, carafe, bucket, flight, or similar container to one person? Yes.

How does proportionate pricing apply to prices of a pitcher, bottle, carafe, bucket, flight, or similar container?

Proportionate pricing applies to individual drinks, not to pitchers, bottles, carafes, buckets, flight or similar containers. As long as a price reduction is not equal to

selling 2 or more alcoholic drinks for the price of one, a retailer is free to set any price for a pitcher, bottle, carafe, bucket, flight or similar container.

Can I permit or encourage drinking games or contests at my licensed premises? No.

Can I still offer daily drink specials?

Yes, as long as the price of the drink special is listed on the mandatory schedule of drink prices.

May I advertise happy hour, meal packages, and party packages?

Yes. Events permitted under the Liquor Control Act may be legally advertised.

May I advertise events and drink specials permitted under the Happy Hour law on social media?

Yes. Social media advertising is allowed.

“Infusions” now legal in IL

The new happy hour changes also allow for the serving of infusions – a spirit where fruits, spices, nuts, and other ingredients are added to naturally infuse flavor into the spirit – which must be consumed on the liquor-licensed premises.

The infusion may be aged for up to 14 days. After aging, it may be served to customers for up to 21 days. A label is required indicating the production date, the base spirit of the infusion, the date the infusion will finish aging, and the date which the infusion must be destroyed.

Because infusions are not intended for immediate consumption, the cleaning regulations differ from those for mixed drinks and pre-mixes (such as margaritas and sangria) whose dispensing containers must be drained, contents disposed of, and thoroughly cleaned at least once every week (with a record signed by the person who performed the cleaning and the date it was done).



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See following page for photo captions.

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER! Teen, adult volunteers making a difference

In partnership with thousands of youth and adult volunteers, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) once again coordinated its statewide **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** underage drinking prevention campaign this past spring and summer – often a time when many teens drink for the first time.

In recognition of this critical education effort, Governor Bruce Rauner proclaimed the 2015 campaign kickoff date as **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER DAY** in Illinois. To view the proclamation and complete list of local **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** partners, visit www.illinois.gov/ILCC/Pages/2015List.pdf.

“Two types of events stand out at this time of year: prom and graduation parties,” says ILCC Education Manager Ted Penesis, who organized the statewide activity. “Unfortunately, some adults

condone underage drinking during these events, and our overriding goal is to change that mindset.”

Since most teens do not drink alcohol, and the vast majority of adults do not give alcohol to minors, **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** is designed specifically to reinforce positive behavior. “This social norming approach ties in perfectly with our prevention programs in Naperville,” says Dawn Neylon of 360 Youth Services, a local **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** partner. “We’ve been using social norms marketing campaigns in five area high schools for the past ten years, and have seen a noticeable shift in perception as well as lowered alcohol use rates among our high school students.”

To view the video, order free materials, and more information, visit www.YourActionsMatter.org.

- 1** Gilda Ross and her Students for Students (SFS), featuring representatives from all Glenbard schools, partnered with the DuPage County Health Department's Prevention Leadership Team and Parents & Teens Together to educate retailers and consumers about the dangers of underage alcohol use on June 17. They even recorded a public service announcement during their Jewel-Osco visit in Carol Stream. Additional partners included the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists and the Carol Stream Police Department.
- 2** A dozen Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members from Bradley-Bourbonnais High School hit over 40 area businesses during their **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** rounds on April 23. Coordinated by Bradley Police Sgt. Adrian P. Provost, among the Village of Bradley dignitaries on hand for the kickoff event was Police Chief Steve Coy (top row, 3rd from left).
- 3** Teens from the Havana Area Prevention Team and Havana High School Interact Club were chaperoned on the **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** visits by the Mason County Sheriff's Office.
- 4** Who says **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** isn't a fun activity? Certainly not Bartlett Police Officer Mireya Flores who, along with fellow officer Victoria Anderson organized an activity that visited every liquor-licensed establishment in Bartlett.
- 5** Flanking The Beverage Store's penguin and Sauk Valley Community College's Skyhawk mascots are Chase Randall (left) from Brake-Thru Driving School and a teen volunteer. Randall organized the **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** activity (which kicked off at the Rock Falls store on May 6) along with the Whiteside County ATOD Task Force. Participating were several dozen students and staff members from Rock Falls, Sterling, and Newman High Schools as well as Whiteside County, Rock Falls, and Sterling law enforcement leaders.
- 6** All licensed liquor establishments in Plano participated in **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** on April 24, in an effort led by Plano Mayor Bob Hausler (center) and featuring Police Chief Steven Eaves and School Superintendent Dr. Hector Garcia.
- 7** An extensive **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** effort in Grundy County over the Memorial Day weekend included these Minooka Explorers, who were chaperoned by Minooka Police Officer Renee Parrish during their May 26 store visits.
- 8** Over 20 student and adult volunteers from Evanston Township High School, Evanston Police Department, and the Chicago Therapy Music Institute conducted city-wide **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** visits on April 23 in an event organized by PEER Services' Karen Finstad of the Evanston Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.
- 9** Just three of the many students chaperoned by the Prospect Heights Police on April 23 during their 10-store **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** journey through town, which was organized by OMNI Youth Services' Jorie Ouimet.
- 10** Posting a **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** window decal is one of the 14 students chaperoned by Buffalo Grove and Wheeling police officers during visits to 20 stores on April 30 in an effort coordinated by Jorie Ouimet from the Link Together Coalition.
- 11** The Arlington Heights Police Department and students from the Link Together Coalition visited 19 stores on May 7. They were even filmed on the **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** rounds by a crew from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Institute for the production of a public service announcement.
- 12** On April 20, CPAC (Citizens for Positive Adolescent Choices) members teamed up with Illini Central High School students, the Mason County Sheriff's Office, and the San Jose Police Department on their **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** rounds in an effort organized by Nadia Klekamp from Chestnut Health Systems.
- 13** One of the approximately 40 teen and adult volunteers recruited by Mundelein Police Department's Rachel Messina smiles for the camera. The Mundelein After-School Coalition and Mundelein Stand-Up Task Force participated in the **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** activities, which were tied to their local “Parents Who Host Lose the Most” event as a reminder to parents not to host underage drinking parties.
- 14** Wauconda Police Officer Dale Weshinsky finishes off the supply of **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** materials on April 23, following Sgt. Mike Botterman's chaperoned visits with Wauconda High School students during spring break.
- 15** One of the participating Bloom Trail High School students (chaperoned by Steger Police Chief Carl A. Mormann and his fellow officers) places a **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** bottleneck during his visit to Party Liquors on April 23.
- 16** Members of the Heyworth Y2N Club and the Heyworth Community Partners Coalition pose with Heyworth High School Principal Jeff Asmus (center right) at Huck's Food Service, after completing their April 23 **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** rounds at participating stores and restaurants in an effort organized by Project Oz's Lisa Soliday.
- 17** Putnam County High School's Interact Club and BP Power Youth Coalition were recruited by Dawn Conerton (far right) of the Community Partners Against Substance Abuse (CPASA) in Bureau and Putnam County to conduct **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** activities this year. Other adult chaperones included a CPASA member, a Putnam County Rotary member, and Putnam County School Board member.
- 18** Orangeville High School students pose with Village Police Officer Shan MacAdam prior to distributing **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** materials to their town's liquor retailers in an effort organized by Village President Alexander Mills on April 24.
- 19** Freddie Preston coordinated the West Carroll Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) in performing **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** activities in the towns of Mt. Carroll, Thomson and Savanna. Above, Mt. Carroll Mobil owners Amar and Praveen Dandona pose with the SADD teens during their visit on April 23.
- 20** Zion-Benton High School Healthy Youth teens gather for a photo after completing their **YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!** detail, which was coordinated by the faculty member Deborah Will.

BASSET going statewide

The *Culinary and Hospitality Modernization Act* mentioned in our cover story also mandates Beverage Alcohol Sellers/Servers Education & Training (BASSET) statewide for all alcohol servers – and those checking ID’s for alcohol service – in on-premise liquor establishments (ie, bars, restaurants, banquet halls).

The new state law does not mandate training for those selling packaged liquor (“to go” sales) at off-premise establishments.

However, many local jurisdictions already require BASSET for all their sellers and servers. You can view local ordinances for

FY2015 newly licensed BASSET providers

Below are the new Beverage Alcohol Seller/Server Training & Education (BASSET) providers over the past fiscal year (July 2014-June 2015):

- Above Training, Inc.
- BASSET Chicago
- The Loews Chicago
- 15 N. Hickory
- A List Startenders
- A Plus Food Training
- Banquet Route
- Forest Preserve Dist. DuPage
- Fyre Lake Golf
- The Langham Chicago
- LIQUORexam.com
- Pheasant Run Hotel
- Village of Hillside
- Aloft Bolingbrook
- Cosaint Alliance
- Evanston Golf Club
- Lincolnshire Marriott Resort
- AEP Consulting
- Parental Unity Counseling
- Southland Prevention Coalition
- Washington County Health Dept.

sellers and servers in your community by visiting the ILCC.illinois.gov home page, choosing the **RESOURCES** tab, and then clicking on the “Local Survey” link.

“BASSET Card Lookup” now up-and-running

Businesses and trainees alike can access the new *BASSET Card Lookup* web feature at www.illinois.gov/ILCC/CardLookup to search for all cardholders trained since May 1, 2015.

The database is now nearly 30,000 strong and growing. Registered trainees can also access and print their certification for FREE via the secured database.

This amenity will also soon be available to nearly ALL those trained since January 1, 2013 as Illinois Liquor Control Commission staff continue to populate the database with trainee records from this date forward.

Why BASSET?

With many states already requiring responsible beverage service – including Illinois’ neighbors – the new BASSET requirement will level the playing field for not only servers in Illinois, but nationwide. “Regardless of the industry – whether you are doing nails, cutting hair, and now serving alcohol – required professional training ultimately results in improved safety and better customer service,” adds ILCC Education Manager Ted Penesis.

“Likewise, the value of BASSET for the trainee cannot be underestimated, especially for those considering a career in Illinois’ growing hospitality field,” Penesis continues. “With BASSET expanding statewide over the next couple years, those currently certified will have an advantage when applying for that next job.”

Other important notes regarding the new BASSET regulations:

- Even though the *BASSET Card Lookup* feature can be accessed 24/7, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission recommends Retailer licensees **keep a copy** of their employees’ BASSET certification on file to ensure all mandated staff is trained.
- BASSET certification for ALL trainees (including those trained for “off-premise sales only”) **expires three years from the issue date** listed on the BASSET card.
- Newly hired servers have **120 days** after their start date to be trained.
- Servers at **not-for-profit special events are excluded** from mandatory server training requirements; **HOWEVER**, those serving at **special use permitted events are required** to be trained.

See the Illinois map on page 7 for the schedule of required training dates by county, or visit www.illinois.gov/ILCC/basnet on the web for more details on Illinois’ seller/server program.

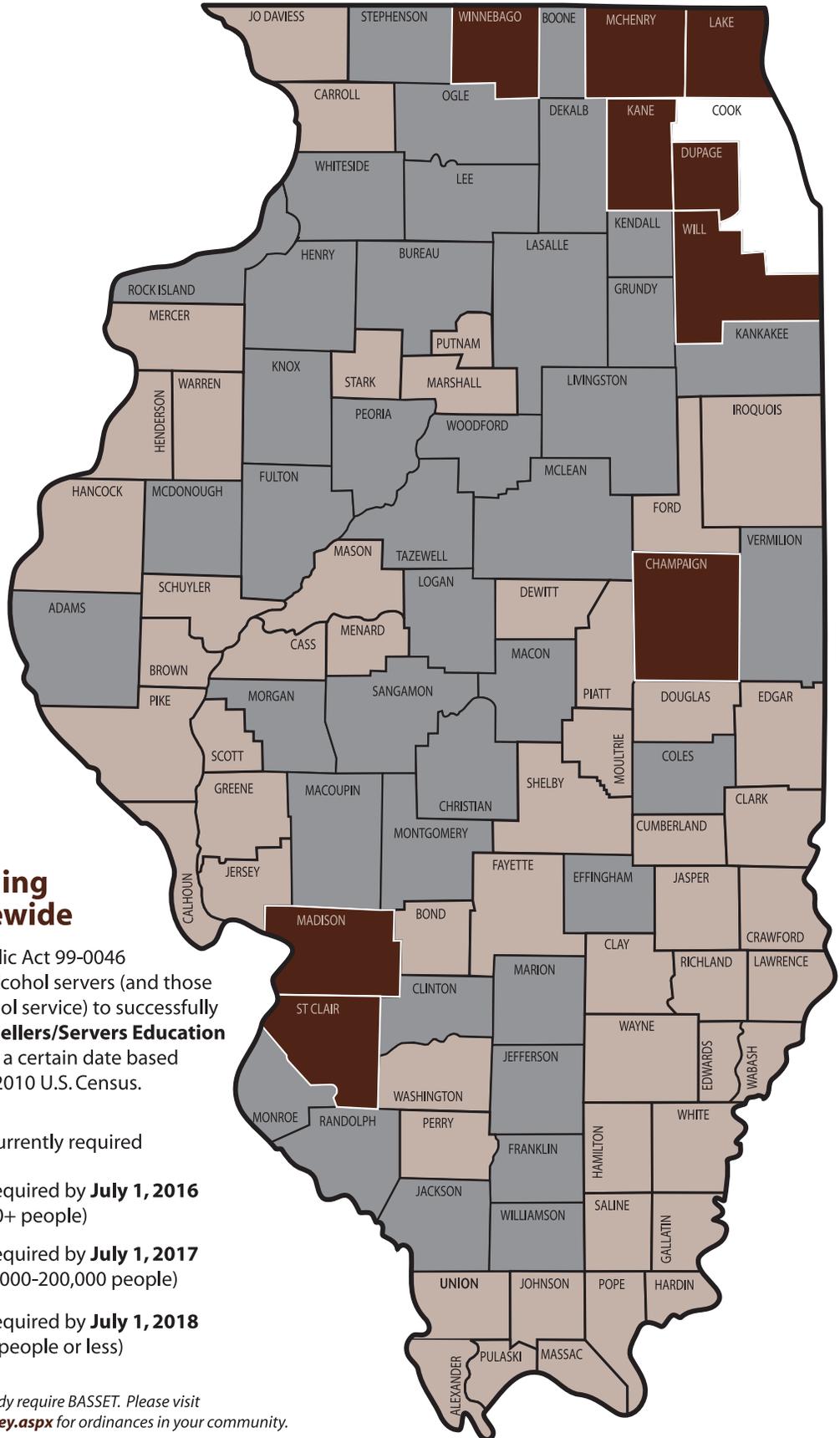
Quick quiz for retailers

I need to update my hours with the Illinois Liquor Control Commission should my business hours change.
TRUE OR FALSE



TRUE. MyTax Illinois users can quickly and easily update their hours via their online management account (for details on setting up your ILCC account, visit ILCC.illinois.gov and click on the “Licensing Information” box). For all others, choose the menu bar’s **FORMS/APPLICATIONS** tab and select the “Change of Hours of Operation” to submit your changes.

Required training dates



Alcohol server training to be required statewide

The July 15, 2015 signing of Public Act 99-0046 requires all Illinois on-premise alcohol servers (and those checking identification for alcohol service) to successfully complete a **Beverage Alcohol Sellers/Servers Education and Training (BASSET)** class by a certain date based upon county population in the 2010 U.S. Census.

- BASSET certification currently required
- BASSET certification required by **July 1, 2016** (counties with 200,000+ people)
- BASSET certification required by **July 1, 2017** (counties between 30,000-200,000 people)
- BASSET certification required by **July 1, 2018** (counties with 30,000 people or less)

NOTE: Some local jurisdictions may already require BASSET. Please visit www.illinois.gov/ILCC/SitePages/Survey.aspx for ordinances in your community.

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Regional meetings for local officials set for October 6-8

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) will be hosting regional meetings for local officials to discuss the new happy hour changes and mandatory server training law. Below are the meeting dates, times, and locations:

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

- **Tuesday, October 6, 10am: West Suburban Chicago**
Westchester Village Hall, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL
- **Tuesday, October 6, 2pm: West Suburban Chicago**
Westchester Village Hall, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL

CENTRAL ILLINOIS

- **Wednesday, October 7, 10am: Bloomington-Normal**
Heartland Community College (Astroth Community Education Center), 1500 W. Raab Rd, Normal, IL

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

- **Thursday, October 8, 10am: Metro East**
Willey Theatre, 252 N Main St, Edwardsville, IL

These meetings are open to mayors and other local elected officials (trustees, clerks, county chairs), law enforcement (police chiefs, sheriffs), health/prevention professionals, and any other individuals who wish to become a Beverage Alcohol Sellers/Servers Education & Training (BASSET) provider. Current licensed BASSET providers will also be on hand to present their programs.

Through these meetings, the ILCC hopes to encourage local officials to take the lead on providing BASSET instruction at the local level, as this will ensure the best possible training environment.

“Local BASSET instructors are more knowledgeable about local ordinances and can tailor classes to address any unique liquor-related challenges in their community,” notes ILCC Education Manager Ted Penesis. “An additional benefit is that BASSET’s overall health and safety goals align perfectly with those in law enforcement and the prevention field.”

Registration is required and space is limited! To register for one of the regional meetings, please visit ILCC.illinois.gov and click on the menu bar’s **CALENDAR** tab.

See cover story for “happy hour” changes

ILCC News Fall 2015