

New Statewide Requirement - Effective July 2021

Responsible Beverage Service Training Act

General Information

The Responsible Beverage Service Training Act of 2017, AB 1221, requires on premise alcohol servers and their managers in California to attend a Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) training from an ABC accredited trainer and pass an exam to be certified. The new law is designed to educate alcohol servers on the dangers of overserving alcohol to patrons and is intended to curb alcohol-related harm within local communities. This change in law creates a new training requirement for ABC licensees including an estimated 1,000,000 alcohol servers and managers. All on premise servers and their managers must attend and pass an ABC accredited training and exam by August 31, 2021. Any server or a manager beginning employment after July 1, 2021, must have a valid RBS certification within 60 calendar days from the first date of employment.

Requirements of Statute

- Requires the Department, on or before January 1, 2020, to develop and regulate a curriculum for an RBS training program as specified by AB 1221.
- Requires the curriculum for an RBS training course to include information on, among other things, state laws and regulations relating to alcoholic beverage control and the impact of alcohol on the body.
- Requires the Department to authorize one or more accreditation agencies to accredit training providers.
- Requires the Department to enforce the mandated Certifications and issue penalties for non-compliance.

ABC's Process and Timing

- Summer/Fall 2018 – Stakeholder engagement to understand industry and public needs. Begin developing RBS program.
- Late Winter 2018 – Further Stakeholder engagement to present policy decisions
- Spring 2019 – Draft regulations and fiscal impact study with Department of Finance.
- Summer 2019 – Begin formal rulemaking through the Office of Administrative Law.
- Winter 2019 – Finalize regulations.
- Spring 2020 – Additional industry outreach. RBS training providers and accreditation agencies.
- Winter 2020 – Public outreach campaign. RBS training to begin by ABC accredited RBS Providers.
- Spring/Summer 2021 – ABC accredited RBS Providers continue training throughout the state.

Additional Information

- Existing RBS training providers will need to be approved by the Department or an accreditation body designated by the Department. Only “approved trainers” can qualify to give certifications.
 - The Department is exploring administering the certification exam rather than providing RBS training.

Contact

For more information, please contact:
Kevin Ortega, Supervising Agent
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
(916) 285-8515 | RBSTP@abc.ca.gov

