

# New Statewide Requirement - Effective July 2021

## Responsible Beverage Service Training Act

### General Information

The Responsible Beverage Service Training Act of 2017 requires alcoholic beverage servers in California to attend responsible beverage service (RBS) training by July 1, 2021. The new law is designed to educate alcoholic beverage servers on the dangers of overserving alcohol to patrons and is intended to curb alcohol-related harm within local communities, particularly in regards to drunk driving and alcohol-related crimes. This change in law creates a new statewide mandate for licensees and a new training requirement for an estimated 600,000 servers.

### Requirements of Statute

- Requires the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, on or before January 1, 2020, to develop, implement, and administer 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 agency to accredit training providers.
- Authorizes the Department to offer its own RBS training course and charge no more than \$15 per customer. The Department is exploring offering training courses.

### ABC's Process and Timing

- Spring/Summer 2018 – Stakeholder engagement to understand industry and public needs.
- Fall 2018 – Begin developing RBS program and internal processes.
- Spring 2019 – Draft regulations and begin the formal rulemaking process through the Office of Administrative Law.
- Winter 2019 – Finalize regulations.
- Spring 2020 – Conduct additional industry outreach and begin approving RBS training providers and accreditation agencies.
- Winter 2020 – Begin public outreach campaign to bring awareness to the upcoming requirement for servers (July 2021).
- Spring/Summer 2021 – RBS trainers providing training throughout the state.

### Additional Information

- Stakeholder engagement will be a core element and welcomed at all steps in the RBS trainer program development.
- Existing RBS training providers will need to be approved by the Department or an accreditation body designated by the Department. Only training provided by an “approved training provider” will qualify as meeting the requirements of the new mandate.

### Contact

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