



Bulletin

Special Edition

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Employees Charged for Serving Under 21

Beginning with the first compliance test of 2015, any server who sells or provides an alcohol beverage to the underage purchaser during a compliance test will be charged for the violation. The new protocol for compliance tests will hold both the licensees and servers responsible when a business fails the compliance test. Serving the underage purchaser will mean the following:

For Licensees:

- The licensees will still be held responsible and will be required to appear before the Board or pay a fine, as determined by the Board.
- The licensees still face a maximum penalty of \$2000 for a first offense and a fine and/or license suspension for a second or subsequent offense in a licensing year.

For servers/employees:

- The server or employee who sells or provides an alcohol beverage to the underage purchaser will immediately be charged with a violation of Article 2B, § 12-108 (a) (i).
- The server will be issued a criminal citation, not arrested.
- The server will be required to appear in the District Court of Maryland to answer the charge.
- Failure to appear for trial could result in a bench warrant being issued for the arrest of the server.
- **Upon conviction the server will face a maximum penalty of two (2) years in jail and/or a \$1000 fine.**

The Liquor Board inspector and the deputy conducting the test will make every effort to minimize disruption to the business in the event of a failed compliance test. Please let your servers and employees know about this change in protocol.

If you have questions about this new protocol please contact the Liquor Board office.