



Underage Alcohol Compliance Test

The Liquor Board inspectors, with the assistance of the Bel Air Police Department, conducted an underage compliance test on January 23, 2014. The good news is that employees at twenty of the thirty-three establishments visited requested the underage police cadet's identification, determined that he was not old enough to purchase alcohol beverages, and denied the sale. The bad news is that servers at ten establishments failed to request his identification before serving and servers at the remaining three establishments actually looked at his valid vertical Maryland driver's license showing him to be eighteen years old and still served him an alcohol beverage.

The Board strongly suggests that licensed establishments do not accept vertical licenses. The servers in several establishments told the cadet that they could not accept his vertical license due to company policy but would serve him if he could produce another form of identification. In these cases the businesses passed the compliance test based on their company policy but would have served the cadet if he had produced another form of identification. It should have been clear from the identification presented that the cadet was not old enough. No alternate form of identification was going to make him older than twenty-one. In keeping with Liquor Board policy, the underage cadet only used his valid vertical Maryland license as identification.

Licenses must reinforce to their employees the necessity of checking identification. Training, posters, and other tools are available from the Liquor Board but are not a substitute for well trained staff members doing their jobs correctly.

Training Available for Servers and Licensees

As always, training in server rights and responsibilities, Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, responsible serving practices, and false identification is available free from the Liquor Board. Contact the Board office to arrange a date.

License renewal applications turned in after March 14, 2014, are subject to a \$200 late fee.

Compliance Test All-Stars

The Board would like to recognize the following licensees for their performance on compliance tests over the last ten years. **Carsins Run Store** has passed every compliance test since 2004. **Silver Spring Mining Company** has passed every compliance test since 2006 and **Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews** has passed every compliance test since they opened in 2008. Thanks for the hard work and dedication of the licensees and staff at those establishments.

Office Closures

The Liquor Board office follows the Harford County Government inclement weather closure policy. If Harford County Government is closed or has a delayed opening, the Liquor Board office will be closed or have a delayed opening also. Information about office closures is also posted on the Liquor Board website, <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/lcb/>

Free Parking on Main Street

You may park free on Main Street in Bel Air when visiting the Liquor Board office. Just press the button on the parking meter and you will get fifteen minutes on the meter. If you need more time than that, the rate is .50¢ per hour and the meters only accept quarters. Save yourself a \$15 ticket.