



Oregon

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Liquor Control Commission

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**Testimony of Thomas Erwin, Government Affairs Director
Oregon Liquor Control Commission
House Business & Labor Committee
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HB 2057**

HB 2057 would expand the membership of the Alcohol Server Education (ASE) Advisory Committee to include providers of instruction and members who have either expertise in education or public health.

In 1985, primarily through the efforts of Oregon's hospitality industry, Oregon became the first state in the nation to adopt mandatory alcohol server education training for people working at liquor licensed businesses that allow the consumption of alcohol by the drink. This first-in-the-nation mandatory program is based on the concept that people who serve alcohol professionally can be a positive force in reducing alcohol-related problems thereby enhancing public health and safety.

The alcohol education course at its core emphasizes the basic alcohol laws of Oregon, and stresses the importance of checking ID, identifying minors and refusing them alcohol service, and learning the signs of visible intoxication, as well as intervention techniques for stopping service to a visibly intoxicated person including removing their drink. Other states soon followed Oregon's example and used much of the content in OLCC's model curriculum for alcohol server education in their own states. Currently, 20 states plus Washington D.C. have some sort of mandatory alcohol education for servers and/or managers. An additional 18 states make alcohol server education available on a voluntary basis.

In 2007, the OLCC Commissioners amended and approved rules to allow the initial alcohol server education course to be offered in an online format. Up until this time, the alcohol server education course was only available through live classroom instruction. Applicants can now take alcohol education online or attend a live class with an instructor.

To date, 2012 saw the highest number of students complete an alcohol server education course. More than 30,600 students completed ASE, the first time we ever hit the 30,000 student mark. Of these completions, more than 80% of the students completed their alcohol server education using the online format. Along with alcohol education, a person would also need to complete the application for

an alcohol service permit. The permit is good for five years from the completion of the ASE course. To renew, the person would again take an ASE course and complete another permit application.

Also in 1985, the legislature approved the formation of an ASE Alcohol Advisory Committee whose purpose is to assist in the development of standards, curriculum and materials for the alcohol education courses, along with procedures of administering the ASE final exam, as well as provider and instructor certification procedures, and related enforcement policies and penalties.

Currently, there are 12 positions on the Alcohol Server Education Advisory Committee. HB 2057 would expand the Advisory Committee by up to four seats with specific categories for these expanded seats.

With both classroom and online formats now a reality, the Advisory Committee members recommended that up to two seats be made available for ASE providers, one representing classroom providers and instructors, and one representing the online providers. Because any updates and changes to the curriculum directly affects these providers, having them represented on the Committee will allow for direct input as to how language could be worded and what content and materials they would need to help them in the classroom and online settings.

The other two seats are for members with expertise in education and/or health education. While the current Committee is comprised of hospitality trade groups and licensees, the Oregon Health Association, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State Police, District Attorney's Association, and Insurance company representatives, the Advisory Committee members believe that it makes good sense to have representation from the education field with some focus on health education. Having this expertise on the Committee will further the creation and development of any necessary curriculum changes and updates to include the perspective of educators currently working in the field and relevant educational techniques.

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