

# New Statewide Requirement - Effective July 2021

## Responsible Beverage Service Training Act

### General Information

The Responsible Beverage Service Training Act of 2017 requires certain alcohol servers and their managers in California to attend an Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) training and pass an exam by July 1, 2021. The new law, AB 1221, 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, 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 1,000,000 alcohol servers and managers.

### 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 develop and regulate standards for the approval of RBS 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.
- 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 – Conduct additional industry outreach and begin approving RBS training providers and accreditation agencies.
- Winter 2020 – Begin public outreach campaign for the upcoming requirement for alcohol servers and managers (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 “approved trainers” can qualify to give certifications.
- The Department is exploring administering the certification exam rather than providing RBS training.

### Contact

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