



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF

# Alcoholic Beverage Control

Jun 7, 2022

## California's Mandatory Alcohol Server Training Deadline Draws Near

*Alcoholic beverage servers and managers at over 56,000 businesses must be trained and certified by August 31, 2022*

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**Sacramento** – The deadline for alcohol servers and their managers at over 56,000 businesses to meet mandatory training under a new law is rapidly approaching. The new law goes into effect on July 1, 2022, and by August 31, 2022, every alcohol server and their managers must be trained under [Assembly Bill 1221](#) and [Assembly Bill 82](#). AB 1221 defines an alcohol server as anyone that is employed at an ABC on-premises licensed establishment who is responsible for checking identifications, taking customer orders, and pouring or delivering alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol servers and their managers must have a valid Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) certification from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). Servers and their managers must pass an online ABC administered RBS exam by August 31 to be certified. If they are newly hired, they must pass the exam and be certified 60 days from the first date of employment.

ABC developed the RBS program by holding meetings around the state with stakeholders to gather input to determine the best method of meeting the new training mandate. Based on input, ABC created the [RBS training portal](#). The portal provides access to an alcoholic beverage training service and certification program to address the requirements of AB 1221.

RBS Training and Certification is a Three-Step process:

- 1. Register with ABC as a Server on the RBS Portal**
- 2. Take RBS training from an approved RBS Training Provider**
- 3. Return to the RBS Portal to take ABC's alcohol server certification exam**

The portal allows servers and managers to complete these steps. They can register as a server, search for training providers, and complete the exam all in one place.

“The development of the RBS portal is a major accomplishment. The entirety of the certification process is online, including the ability to accept online payments,” said Licensing Division Chief Jaime Taylor. “The RBS training program is designed to provide licensees, managers, and servers with the tools and knowledge needed to promote responsible consumption, reduce youth access to alcohol, and make communities safe.”

Alcohol servers and their managers play an important public safety role. Over 9,000 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes in California between 2009 and 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control. A [Rutgers University](#) study shows some states that implemented responsible beverage service laws saw a drop in deaths involving underage drinking drivers. Oregon was the first state to adopt a mandatory alcohol server program in 1986, and by 1989 single-vehicle nighttime crashes were reduced by 23 percent according to a [joint study](#) by the Prevention Research Center and University of Minnesota. By working with approved training providers, ABC hopes to reduce incidents like these, as well as other alcohol-related harm.

Prospective RBS training providers are still being encouraged to submit their applications to ABC on the [RBS Portal](#). ABC reviews the trainer applications to determine if they meet the standards for certification to train servers to serve alcohol safely and responsibly.

ABC protects communities through education and by administering prevention and enforcement programs designed to increase compliance with California's alcoholic beverage laws.

ABC is a department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

## CONTACT

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## Assembly Bill No. 1221

### CHAPTER 847

An act to add Article 4 (commencing with Section 25680) to Chapter 16 of Division 9 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to alcoholic beverages.

[ Approved by Governor October 15, 2017. Filed with Secretary of State October 15, 2017. ]

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1221, Gonzalez Fletcher. Alcoholic beverage control: Responsible Beverage Service Training Program Act of 2017.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, administered by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, regulates the granting of licenses for the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages within the state. Under existing law, any on-sale license authorizes the sale of the alcoholic beverage specified in the license for consumption on the premises where sold. Currently, the Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (LEAD) program is a voluntary prevention and education program for retail licensees, their employees, and applicants, regarding alcohol responsibility and the law.

This bill, in addition to the LEAD program, would establish the Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) Training Program Act of 2017, and would require the department, on or before January 1, 2020, to develop, implement, and administer a curriculum for an RBS training program, as specified. The bill would, beginning July 1, 2021, require an alcohol server, as defined, to successfully complete an RBS training course offered or authorized by the department. The bill would authorize the department to charge a fee, not to exceed \$15, for any RBS training course provided by the department and require the fee to be deposited in the Alcohol Beverage Control Fund. The bill would provide that an RBS training course include information on, among other things, state laws and regulations relating to alcoholic beverage control and the impact of alcohol on the body. The bill would require the department to authorize one or more accreditation agencies to accredit training providers to offer RBS training courses that meet curriculum requirements established by the department and authorize the department to approve training providers that are not accredited, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to collect fees to cover its reasonable costs for the review, approval, and renewal of approval of accreditation agencies and nonaccredited training providers. The bill would require licensees to maintain, and provide upon request by the department, all records necessary to establish compliance with these provisions. The bill would provide that a violation of these provisions shall not be grounds for any criminal action, pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, against a licensee or an employee of a licensee.

### Digest Key

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

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### Bill Text

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Responsible Beverage Service Training Program Act of 2017.

**SEC. 2.** Article 4 (commencing with Section 25680) is added to Chapter 16 of Division 9 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

**Article 4. Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) Training Program Act of 2017**

25680. For purposes of this article:

(a) “Alcohol server” means a person who serves alcoholic beverages for consumption, or a person who manages or supervises that person, on premises licensed to serve alcoholic beverages pursuant to this division, including a designee for alcoholic beverage sales and service pursuant to temporary license.

(b) “Alcohol server certification” means a certification issued by a training provider to a person who has successfully completed an RBS training course, as demonstrated by the passage of an exam.

(c) “RBS training course” means a course administered by a training provider that is designed to instruct and educate alcohol servers on responsible practices regarding the sale and service of alcoholic beverages that includes, but is not limited to, instruction on the following subjects:

(1) The social impact of alcohol.

(2) The impact of alcohol on the body.

(3) State laws and regulations relating to alcoholic beverage control, including laws and regulations related to driving under the influence.

(4) Intervention techniques to prevent the service or sale of alcoholic beverages to underage persons or intoxicated patrons.

(5) The development of management policies that support the prevention of service or sale of alcoholic beverages to underage persons or intoxicated patrons.

(d) “RBS training program” means a statewide Responsible Beverage Service training program administered or authorized by the department that provides RBS training courses to licensees and their agents and employees.

(e) “Training provider” means any of the following:

(1) A training provider accredited by an accreditation agency, provided that the accreditation agency is authorized by the department to accredit training providers offering RBS training courses.

(2) A training provider approved by the department, pursuant to rules promulgated by the department pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25681.

(3) The department when offering RBS training courses.

25681. (a) On or before January 1, 2020, the department shall develop, implement, and administer a curriculum for an RBS training program that will make RBS training courses available, both in person and online, to all persons required to obtain an alcohol server certification pursuant to this article. RBS training courses shall, at a minimum, be offered in English and Spanish.

(1) The department may be a provider of RBS training courses.

(2) The department shall authorize one or more accreditation agencies to accredit training providers to offer RBS

training courses that meet the curriculum requirements established by the department. The department may collect fees to cover its reasonable costs for the review, approval, and renewal of the approval of accreditation agencies.

(3) An accredited training provider shall register with the department once accredited.

(b) (1) The department may approve training providers that are not accredited by an accreditation agency authorized by the department. On or before January 1, 2020, the department shall promulgate regulations setting forth the requirements for approval for training providers that are not accredited. At a minimum, training providers that are not accredited shall:

(A) Possess background and expertise in the fields of alcohol, training, hospitality, and psychology.

(B) Keep records of all certifications issued and, upon request, make these available to the department or other law enforcement agencies.

(C) Provide technical support to servers and customers.

(D) Maintain strict data security protocols.

(E) Comply with any other requirements established by the department.

(2) The department may collect fees to cover its reasonable costs for the review, approval, and renewal of the approval of training providers that are not accredited by an accreditation agency.

(c) A training provider shall register with the department once accredited by an authorized accreditation agency or approved by the department.

(d) A training provider shall issue alcohol server certifications to persons who have successfully completed an RBS training course and passed an exam.

(e) An alcohol server certification shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance and shall be valid for any person employed by a licensee that is subject to this article.

25682. (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, a licensee that is subject to this article shall not employ or continue to employ any alcohol server without a valid alcohol server certification.

(1) An alcohol server who was employed by the licensee prior to July 1, 2021, shall obtain an alcohol server certification by August 31, 2021.

(2) An alcohol server employed by the licensee on or after July 1, 2021, shall obtain an alcohol server certification within 60 calendar days of employment.

(b) (1) A licensee subject that is to this article shall ensure that each alcohol server it employs has a valid alcohol server certification. The licensee shall maintain records of certifications for inspection, upon request, by the department.

(2) Except for a violation of subdivision (c), it shall be a defense against any action for a violation of this article that the alcohol server was within 60 calendar days of initial employment or, with regard to employees employed prior to July 1, 2021, between July 1, 2021, and August 31, 2021, inclusive.

(c) A nonprofit organization that has obtained a temporary daily on-sale license or a temporary daily off-sale license from the department shall designate a person or persons to receive RBS training prior to the event, and that designated person or persons shall remain on site for the duration of the event.

25683. A person shall not perform duties that include the sale or service of alcoholic beverages for consumption on licensed premises, and shall not manage that person, without a valid alcohol server certification.

25684. The failure of a licensee to comply with this article shall be grounds for disciplinary action. A violation of this article shall not be grounds for any criminal action, pursuant to this division, against a licensee or an agent or employee of a licensee.

25685. (a) The department may charge a fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15) per person, for any RBS training course provided by the department. Any moneys collected under this article shall be deposited in the Alcohol Beverage Control Fund.

(b) The department may adopt rules that it determines necessary for the administration of the provisions of this article. 25686. Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand the existing duties of a licensee in connection with the sale and service of alcoholic beverages. An alcohol server shall continue to be subject to subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 25602.

The next page has a list of the required Training providers. Please note that all has been included on one sheet and too small to view. Just expand (ZOOM) this list as needed. On Computers use CTRL + Its easy.

Just expand this list to view it more comfortably.

Name	DBA	Phone Number	Email	Website	Price	Type Of Training	Service Area	Language Offered	Training Program	Course Name	Approval Date
MindMeld Studios, LLC	Get RBS	800-861-7642	support@getrbs.com	www.getrbs.com	\$12.99	Online	Online	English	6	RBS Training Program	3/29/2021
Foodservice Operators Training Achievement Program Series, LLC	TAP Series	818(809)-3762	tap@fapservices.com	https://fapservices.io/	\$19.95	Online	Online	English	112655156	RBS Alcohol Training	2/18/2022
National Restaurant Association Solutions Alcohol, LLC	SevSafe Alcohol	(800)765-2122	programcompliance@restaurant.org	https://www.sevsafe.com/	\$15.00	Online	Online	English	312650998	SevSafe Alcohol California Online	3/16/2022
Usevise Inc.	Usevise.com	1-855-546-1500	support@usevise.com	https://usevise.com/us/ca/alcohol-service/rbs-certification	\$19.99	Online	Statewide	English	312656818	California RBS Certification Training	12/1/2021
Alcohol Intervention and Management LLC	ABC Permits	(615)216-7500	info@abcpermits.com	https://rbsraining.com/	\$12.50	Online	Online	English	312663287	California RBS Training	6/2/2022
Food Service Prep LLC	NA	(800)712-1707	foodserviceprep@gmail.com	https://foodserviceprep.com/	\$10.95	Online	Online	English	312724068	California Responsible Beverage Service Training	7/5/2022
Professional Server Certification Corp.	RBServng	(605)427-2000	support@RBServng.com	https://RBServng.com/	\$7.95	Online	Online	English	312654999	California On-Premises Responsible Serving of Alcohol	3/29/2021
Edward Donald McLean	Affordable Alcohol Training dba LIQUDREXAM	(888)344-5554	contact@liquorexam.com	https://www.liquorexam.com/	\$9.95	Online	Online	English	312654998	California Responsible Beverage Service Training	3/29/2021
Comedy Education, LLC	Comedy RBS	(214)310-1075	ken@comedyeducation.com	https://comedyserver.com/	\$12.95	Online	Statewide	English	312724128	Comedy RBS	7/27/2022
Manuel Campos	Ace Food Handler	(877)952-8111	manny@acefoodhandler.com	https://acefoodhandler.com/	\$12.00	Online	Online	English	312655005	California Responsible Beverage Service Training	12/2/2021
Diversys Learning, Inc.	rbspermit-espanol.com	(512)343-2600	sbailey@diversyslearning.com	https://www.rbspermit-espanol.com/	\$12.95	Online	Statewide	Spanish	312667055	Capacitaci3n de RBS de California	6/17/2022
ABC Server Training LLC	ABC Server Training	(800)722-9451	support@abcservertraining.com	https://www.abcservertraining.com/	\$9.99	Online	Online	English	312660682	LiquorLicense.com RBS Training Course	2/11/2022
Foodservice Training Portal, LLC	NA	(877)639-3761	info@foodservicetrainingportal.com	https://foodservicetrainingportal.com/	\$9.95	Online	Statewide	English	312676407	RBS eStart	5/25/2022
DRINKWISE America LLC	DRINKWISE America	(949)300-0977	hanoureggg@gmail.com	https://drinkwiseamerica.com/	\$15.99	Online	Online	English	312659601	DrinkWise America	5/19/2022
Diversys Learning, Inc.	RBSPermit-Mandarin.com and RBSPermit-Chinese.com	(512)343-2600	sbailey@diversyslearning.com	www.rbspermit.com	\$12.95	Online	Statewide	Chinese - Mandarin	312726945	RS 3.4 RBS 6 - "RBS" (California RBS Alcohol Server Training)	8/8/2022
WDRIR LLC	A+ Server Education	(877)740-5509	wally@aplusservereducation.com	https://www.aplusservereducation.com/california-abc-rbs-alcohol-training	\$12.50	Online	Online	English	312654990	California RBS Certificate AB 1221 Approved Training	4/9/2021
Craft Serving, LLC	Craft Serving	(213)772-7759	customerservice@craftserving.com	https://craftserving.com/products/rbs-certification/	\$12.50	Online	Online	English	312650778	RBS Certification Course	7/5/2022
Courses for Continuing Education LLC	Courses for Servers	(800)597-4235	admin@coursesforservers.com	https://coursesforservers.com/	\$10.95	Online	Statewide	English	312653787	RBC / RBS Alcohol Seller Server Course	3/17/2022
Serving Alcohol Inc	Serving Alcohol Inc	(561)404-9363	team@servingalcohol.com	https://servingalcohol.com/	\$12.50	Online	Statewide	English	312655125	NA	2/14/2022
Comedy Education, LLC	Comedy Seller Server	(972)573-2700	support@comedyserver.com	https://comedyserver.com/california	\$12.99	Online	Online	English	57	Comedy Seller Server	5/17/2021
PA Hospitality and Consulting, LLC	PA Hospitality and Consulting, LLC	(717)443-3998	crystal@pahospitalityandconsulting.com	https://rbsservertraining.com	\$11.95	Online	Statewide	English	39	RBSServerTraining	7/23/2021
Advanced Associates	PA Premiere CE	(571)227-1637	support@premiere.com	https://www.premiere.com/	\$12.00	Online	Online	Spanish	312664144	R1 Capacitaci3n en Servicio de Bebidas Responsable	3/24/2022
EducClassesA	SellerServerClasses.com	903-893-3717	info@sellerserverclasses.com	https://california.sellerserverclasses.com	\$9.95	Online	Online	English	312655005	SellerServerClasses.com	5/28/2021
360training.com, Inc.	TIPS	(877)881-2235	accreditation@360training.com	https://www.gettips.com/	\$40.00	Online	Online	English	312657695	TIPS On Premise - California	3/11/2022
Diversys Learning, Inc.	RBSPermit.com	NA	support@diversyslearning.com	https://www.rbspermit.com/	\$12.95	Online	Online	English	33	California RBS Alcohol Server Training	3/29/2021
Americas Alcohol Certified Education Association Inc	AACEA.COM	(888)865-1900	tech@aacea.com	https://aacea.com/	\$15.95	Online	Online	English	47	AACEA - Americas Alcohol Certified Education Association	8/5/2021
EducClassesA	SellerServerClasses.com	903-893-3717	info@sellerserverclasses.com	https://california.sellerserverclasses.com	\$9.95	Online	Online	Spanish	312658853	SellerServerClasses.com	12/17/2021
Ready Training, Inc	Ready Training Online	(717)366-4500	compliance@readtrainingonline.com	https://readtrainingonline.com/courses/	\$12.95	Online	Statewide	English	5	California Responsible Beverage Service	3/29/2021
Compliance Trainers LLC	AAA Food Handler	(714)592-4100	support@aaafoodhandler.com	https://aaafoodhandler.com/	\$7.95	Online	Online	English	312706526	Responsible Beverage Service Training	6/23/2022
AboveTraining Inc.	StateFoodSafety	(801)494-1416	support@statefoodsafety.com	https://statefoodsafety.com/alcohol-server/california-alcohol-certification	\$12.95	Online	Online	English	36	California Responsible Beverage Service Training	7/27/2021
American Safety Council, Inc.	Seller Server Online	1-800-732-4135	michael.mcmahon@amercs.com	https://www.sellerserveronline.com/	\$12.95	Online	Online	English	30	NA	4/16/2021
Jerry R Jolly and Associates LLC	Jerry R Jolly and Associates LLC	(916)890-3150	jolly@certifiedalcoholtraining.com	https://certifiedalcoholtraining.com/	\$15.00	Online	Online	English	312659057	California Responsible Beverage Service Training (Online)	12/15/2021
Wedge Communications, LLC	Way To Serve	(303)665-4377	OWoodall@wedgcommunication.com	https://www.waytoserve.org/	\$12.50	Online	Online	English	35	Way To Serve	7/19/2021
Brainy Day Learning LLC	RBSTrainingCA.com	(800)878-4239	support@RBSTrainingCA.com	www.RBSTrainingCA.com	\$12.50	Online	Online	English	66	NA	1/21/2022