

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION**

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**50 W. Washington St. Suite 209  
Chicago, Illinois 60602**

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November 19, 2025  
1:00 PM**

**Call the Roll:**

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**I. Present**

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>

**ILCC Staff Present:**

Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>HR Director</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Richard Haymaker	<i>Legal Attorney</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Jacqueline Villa	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons and seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025, meeting; the motion passed.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes	Cynthia Berg	Yes
Julieta LaMalfa	Yes		

**III. Executive Director's Report**

- **Audit**
  - This is the third audit as a stand-alone agency
  - We have received 330 audit requests.
  - 48 of which are electronic data processing.
  - Auditors hope to wrap up this portion of the audit by mid-December.
- **Fiscal**
  - \$9.2 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
    - The ILCC operating budget
  - Our October 2025 Revenue - \$1.7 Million
    - Licensing division generated 95%.
    - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 5%.

- **Licensing**

- October 2025 Figures
  - Active licenses – 31,157
    - 2,465 issued.
    - 210 new applications
  - Special event licenses
    - 332 were this month
    - 90% was submitted online.
    - 4,339 were issued year to date

- **Salesforce**

- We are in the continuing to work with DoIt to transition from Gentax to Salesforce to handle the majority of ILCC's Licensing Enforcement, Legal, and Basset process.
- We are planning to release early 2026.
- December and January will be dedicated to user acceptance testing training and public outreach.

- **Enforcement**

- **Delinquency list**
  - 1,555 Delinquencies Reported
  - 1,449 Cures.
  - There were 9 Bona-Fide disputes filed for the month.
- Inspections Totals for February
  - Total of 728 Inspections.
    - 5 were pre-licensing inspections
    - 83 were First Inspections.
    - 232 violations were cited.
  - Most common violations
    - Contaminated Liquor
    - Personnel not BASSET certified.
    - Liquor purchased at retail versus by a licensed distributor.
    - Corporate status not in good standing.
    - Pre-mix not destroyed weekly.
    - ILCC license not displayed.
    - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable
  - 54 warnings were issued.
    - Most common
      - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.
      - 90 days of invoices not being available.
      - ILCC license not being displayed.
      - Taps not being cleaned as required
      - Not having Tap Cleaning records.

- Complaints
  - The ILCC received 77 complaints in October. The complaints came via the online submission form, email, phone calls, and in-person information.
  - The most common complaints were operating without a valid license, the sale of alcohol to a minor, and happy hour violations.
  - Enforcement investigated and closed 15 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:
  - 14 Underage Compliance missions
  - 182 establishments were checked.
    - 30 failures
    - 152 were compliant.
    - 28 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
    - 4 repeat offender failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
  - Removed from marketplace:
    - 10 posts from Craigslist
    - 7 posts from Facebook Marketplace
    - 1 post from Offer-Up
- Legal
  - 196 cases pending
    - 2 distributor cases.
    - 97 retailer cases.
    - 97 sales of alcohol to minor
      - 86 first offense.
      - 8 second offense.
      - 3 third offense
    - Closed 190 cases.
  - Pre-disciplinary conferences
    - Conducted 7 pre-disciplinary conferences.
    - 9 outstanding
  - Appeals
    - 3 pending appeals
    - Last appeal status was held October 9, 2025.
  - Sale of Alcohol to Minors (SAM)
    - SAM settlement training conferences
    - November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Chicago office
    - November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Springfield office.
  - FOIA
    - Received 16 FOIA requests.
  - Administrative review
    - 3 are under administrative review.
  - Other legal pending matters:
    - 22 CV 4956-Freehan v. Berg, et al. (Full Pull Wines)
      - On September 25, 2025, Judge Jeremy Daniel of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Eastern Division) issued a decision in favor of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission in support of the Illinois three-

tier alcoholic beverage regulatory system. Judge Daniel agreed with the Commission's argument that the Illinois Liquor Control Act may legally prohibit a retailer in another state from shipping alcoholic beverages directly to an Illinois consumer. Based on affidavit testimony of ILCC staff Kenneth Williams and Dusanka Marijan, Judge Daniel ruled that retailers selling alcoholic beverages in Illinois must be physically located and licensed in Illinois and must purchase alcoholic beverages from Illinois distributors before selling to Illinois consumers. Such a process preserves Illinois' three-tier regulatory structure and promotes the health and safety of Illinois residents.

- **New ILCC Member**
  - On November 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed a new team member, Alexander Schaefer, to our Chicago licensing team.
- **Industry Education**
  - Fall newsletter
    - Important information on our new Illinois liquor control commission and compliance portal.
    - Industry best practices tips
    - Information related to alcohol shipping.
  - Youth Alcohol Summit
    - On October 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - This summit was well attended, which included the driver of a deadly New Year's Eve drunk driving crash. He is now an author and spoke to the attendees about the harm of drinking and driving.
    - Four college students also attended the summit to speak about consent and how alcohol can shape your college experience.
  - Any events speaking requests should be sent to:  
[ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov](mailto:ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov)
- Commissioner Pulido Sanchez asked about any local data the ILCC may have regarding alcohol causing cancer.
- Commissioner Gibbons asked about alcohol business being down 20% year to date.
- Commissioner Gibbons asked about the percentage of licenses between September and October being down by 30%.
- Commissioner Gibbons asked about the wine shipper licenses being down by 60% year to date.
- The commission and the director discussed the issues with shipping alcohol and delivery services (USPS UPS, FedEx) and the lack of education surrounding said topic.
- Commissioner Spann-Cooper asked about BASSETT training and ways we can upgrade this training.

#### **IV. Approval of 2026 Commission Meeting Calander**

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez to approve the 2026 meeting Calander; the motion passed.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes	Cynthia Berg	Yes
Juliet LaMalfa	Yes		

**V. Public Comment**

Patt Doer made a comment regarding the new mobile ID release and how this can affect the industry.

**VI. Child Support**

General counsel Noel Quanbeck gave a summary of this child support matter being closed.

**VII. Comments from the Board**

N/A

**VIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes	Cynthia Berg	Yes
Julieta LaMalfa	Yes		

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m. CST

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary

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