

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

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

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**April 15, 2026
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:

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive Director</i>
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>HR Director</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Richard Haymaker	<i>Legal Attorney</i>
Abraham Zisook	<i>Legal Attorney</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Jacqueline Villa	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026, meeting; the motion passed.

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

III. Executive Director's Report

- **Audit**
 - The third compliance audit has been completed. We received 12 finding, most of which were due to GenTax, and insufficient HR Staffing. The GenTax issues were related to access, monthly reconciliations, user rights and cybersecurity. These have all been addressed with the new licensing system. HR staffing issues were noted in Personal services, reporting, user access rights, performance evals, Trainings/Statement of Economic interest not being completed timely.
 - For all unresolved findings, we are creating corrective Action Plans to ensure they are not repeated going forward.
- **Salesforce**

- We are two months into our new system, the Illinois Liquor Control & Compliance Portal, which marked a major milestone in ILCC'S modernization efforts.
 - The Hypercare period concluded on March 20th and phase 2 development started on March 23rd, which is being implemented in small, incremental updates.
 - Data migration related issues are ongoing. Long term data cleanup strategy in development.
- Licenses are encouraged to visit the ILCC website for important launch updates and FAQs on transiting to the new system.
- **Fiscal**
 - \$15 Million YTD revenue.
 - \$6.1 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget
- Our March 2026 Revenue - \$81,143
- March revenues were extremely low due to the switch from the GenTax to the ILCC Portal we have been working with DoIT and the Treasurer's office to fix timing and deposit issues. April is already seeing a large increase in deposits to offset March low numbers.
- **Licensing**
 - March 2026 Figures
 - Active licenses – 31,585
 - 2,258 issued.
 - 192 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 223 in the month of January
- **Enforcement**
 - Inspections Totals for March
 - Total of 851 Inspections.
 - 4 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 49 were First Inspections.
 - 353 violations were cited.
 - Most common violations
 - Contaminated Liquor
 - ILCC license not displayed.
 - Pregnancy warning not displayed
 - Personnel not BASSET certified.
 - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable
 - Complaints
 - The ILCC received 127 complaints in March. The complaints came via 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 33 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:
 - 13 Underage Compliance missions
 - 179 establishments were checked.

- 42 failures
 - 137 were compliant.
 - 19 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
 - 3 repeat offender failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
 - Removed from marketplace:
 - 10 posts from Craigslist
 - 11 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 2 posts from Offer-Up
- Delinquency List- February 2026
 - 809 were reported delinquent
 - 826 delinquencies cured
 - 3 BFDs
- **Legal**
 - 82 cases pending
 - 0 distributor cases.
 - 9 Distributors
 - 33 Retailers
 - 40 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 33 first offense.
 - 5 second offense.
 - 5 third offense
 - Closed 0 cases.
 - Due to on-going data migration issues in the new system.
 - 6 pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Appeals
 - 1 pending appeal
 - FOIA
 - Received 27 FOIA requests.
 - Administrative review
 - 2 are under administrative review.
- **Human Resources**
 - Chief Noel Sanchez has officially retired. Supervisor William Leen will be in the interim Chief of Enforcement until a new chief is identifiable. That position, as well as the open Chief of Staff position, are both posted on the Illinois at Work job site.
 - Two former agents, Agents Swemline and McDonald are returning on a temp basis to assist in uncovered districts.
 - An internal job posting (current state employees) has concluded with the open Human Resources Specialist position in Springfield. A review of candidates is underway.
- **Industry Education**
 - In March, Industry Education continued sharing ILCC Portal updates and tips with licenses.
 - The basset Program hosted several portal training sessions throughout the month to help licensees become familiar with the new system, as well as the processes and procedures required to remain compliant.
 - Additionally, social media content was created relating to responsible alcohol consumption during March Madness and St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

- The ILCC was featured in four new publications in March related to license suspensions for underage sales and compliance checks.
- In March, I spoke at the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association’s Legal symposium on the “Face Age” panel, which focused on alcohol regulation and biometrics. I discussed the use of biometrics for age verification in alcohol sales.
 - April 1st – Alcohol Awareness Month
- Any event speaking request should be sent to ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov

IV. Public Comment

N/A

V. Comments from the Board

N/A

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Gibbons.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
