



# Massachusetts Office on Disability

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Dear Local Licensing Authority,

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (“MOD”) requests your help to ensure that all licensees in your municipality are both aware of, and operating their business in compliance with, M.G.L. ch. 138, § 34B. The law was amended in 2012 to include the Massachusetts Identification Card as one of the six acceptable forms of identification that licensees may reasonably rely upon when serving alcoholic beverages. We ask that you forward this correspondence and attached ABCC Advisory to each current Section 12 (on-premises) and Section 15 (off-premises) licensee in your local city or town.

The ABCC originally issued the advisory on September 4, 2012, relating to M.G.L. ch. 138, § 34B and provided an updated list of the six forms of identification that an alcoholic beverage licensee may reasonably rely upon as proof of age. Nevertheless, we are being told that individuals with disabilities continue to face difficulty when using the Massachusetts Identification Card at restaurants and bars.

Arbitrarily denying the use of the official Massachusetts Identification Card carried by an individual with a disability, who is unable to obtain a driver’s license due to the nature of their disability, has resulted in individuals being denied the opportunity to enjoy the goods and services provided by the licensee, and in one case forced an individual to disclose their disability to others while defending their use of the Massachusetts Identification Card. The law was revised to address just this problem. The statute clearly states that the Massachusetts Identification Card is an acceptable form of identification that may be presented in order to purchase alcohol.

We strongly encourage all alcoholic beverage licensees to review their policies and procedures to ensure they operate in compliance with all state laws. This letter is to remind licensees that the Massachusetts ID Card is a valid and acceptable form of identification that can be presented in order to purchase alcohol.

If you have any questions, concerns or need further clarification, please contact the  
Massachusetts Office on Disability at (617) 727-7440.

Sincerely,



Myra Berloff

*Director*

Massachusetts Office on Disability