

Administrative Release

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AB-30

April 21, 2005

To: Alcohol Awareness Program and Instructor Permit Holders

Subject: Alcohol Awareness Training

The Comptroller is authorized to issue Alcohol Awareness programs and Alcohol Awareness instructor permits under Article 2B, section 2-101, of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Comptroller reviews the Alcohol Awareness program to be certain the class is compliant with the provisions found in Section 13-101, of Article 2B, and then certifies the Alcohol Awareness program as compliant with requirements set forth in the statute.

The statute requires that an Alcohol Awareness program contain the following information at a minimum:

- Instruction on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior;
- Provides education on the dangers of drinking and driving;
- Defines effective methods for :
 - Serving customers to minimize the chance of intoxication
 - Ceasing service before the customer becomes intoxicated
 - Determining if a customer is under the legal drinking age

The Alcohol Awareness programs certified by the Comptroller as compliant with the statutory requirements, must meet these minimum requirements. Alcohol Awareness instructors teaching approved classes must then carry out the class as certified by the Comptroller. This means that the course content and the number of minimum classroom hours as presented by the program provider must be part of the actual program given by an instructor.

Recently, we have learned of an Alcohol Awareness program that is being presented by an Alcohol Awareness instructor which is not in compliance with the program as certified by the Comptroller. Specifically, the class calls for eight hours of training, and the actual class presented was less than one hour total.

The Comptroller's Office takes steps to be sure that certified programs are presented in a fashion that meets the requirements as set forth in the statute by periodically monitoring classes. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that it is your responsibility as a permit holder, to be certain that any Alcohol Awareness class presented is presented in compliance with Maryland's alcohol laws. **Alcohol Awareness programs and instructor's teaching those programs that are found to be non-compliant, face possible decertification, fines and/or permit suspension.**

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact Michele Lindsay, at 410-260-7383.

Larry Tolliver
Director

cc. County Liquor Boards