



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of the State Treasurer  
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission  
Boston, MA 02114*

**Steven Grossman**  
*Treasurer and Receiver General*

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*Chairman*

**THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ("ABCC") ADVISORY**

**MASSACHUSETTS IDENTIFICATION CARD AS ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF AGE FOR  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PURCHASE**

On July 30, 2012, the Governor approved Chapter 170 of the Acts of 2012 that amended M.G.L. c.138, §34B<sup>1</sup>. As a result, beginning October 29, 2012, alcoholic beverages licensees may reasonably rely on the following forms of identification for proof of age:

1. A Massachusetts Driver's License;
2. A Massachusetts Liquor Identification Card;
3. A Massachusetts Identification Card;
4. A Passport Issued by the United States or a government that is officially recognized by the United States;
5. A Passport Card for a Passport issued by the United States; and
6. A Military Identification Card.

The RMV advises the ABCC that there are three versions of Mass ID cards on the street that are valid. One version (identified below as "Version 1") was issued prior to 2003 and may still be in effect because it did not have an expiration date. The next version (identified below as "Version 2") was in effect from 2004-2009 and has a five year expiration date so those issued in 2009 are valid until 2014. The current version (identified below as "Version 3") is being issued from 2010 to 2015.

We have attached all three versions so that alcohol servers are familiar with them since they have not been accepted up until now. Both the ABCC and the RMV would not want consumers of legal age with valid Mass ID cards to be denied service solely because the server didn't recognize a valid Mass ID card.

As always, licensees should ensure that they are in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, M.G.L. c. 138, §64 and that the sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by state law. Individuals with questions concerning this advisory may contact, Ralph Sacramone at 617-727-3040 x 731.

(Issued: September 4, 2012)

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<sup>1</sup> M.G.L. c. 138, §34B currently provides in pertinent part that "[a]ny licensee, or agent or employee thereof, under this chapter who reasonably relies on ... a Massachusetts Liquor Identification Card or motor vehicle license issued pursuant to section eight of chapter ninety, or on a valid passport issued by the United States government, or by the government, recognized by the United States government, of a foreign country, or a valid United States issued military identification card, for proof of a person's identity and age shall not suffer any modification, suspension, revocation or cancellation of such license, nor shall he suffer any criminal liability, for delivering or selling alcohol or alcoholic beverages to a person under twenty-one years of age." Thereof, under this chapter who reasonably relies on... a Massachusetts Liquor Identification Card or motor vehicle license issued pursuant to section eight of chapter ninety, or on a valid passport issued by the United States government, or by the government, recognized by the United States government, of a foreign country, or a valid United States issued military identification card, for proof of a person's identity and age shall not suffer any modification, suspension, revocation or cancellation of such license, nor shall he suffer any criminal liability, for delivering or selling alcohol or alcoholic beverages to a person under twenty-one years of age."



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**MASSACHUSETTS IDENTIFICATION CARD AS ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF AGE FOR  
 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PURCHASE SAMPLES**

**Version 1**



**Version 2**



**Version 3**

