



State of Arizona  
Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GRANT MONEY IMPROVES STATEWIDE LIQUOR TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT

PHOENIX - The Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (DLLC) is Arizona's regulatory agency for the state's 11,930 liquor-licensed businesses. DLLC was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to enhance liquor enforcement and education statewide. Since July 2011, it is estimated that 1,700 law enforcement officers and liquor licensees have received fake ID training. DLLC's fifteen liquor officers have written more than 1,200 liquor-related criminal citations in the most recent 12-month period.

Joe Vernier, DLLC's Deputy Director responsible for the Investigation Division, explains, "In Arizona, a liquor officer's primary focus is to eliminate the sale of liquor to underage persons. Anyone with \$200 and an Internet connection can order a fake ID. With the main supplier of fake IDs back in business, hundreds of thousands of fake IDs of excellent quality are in circulation. To identify the features that of a fake ID, officers and licensees require hours of training. To stay ahead of fake ID production, many states have two or more versions of IDs, each with enhanced safety features. Officers and licensees take hundreds of fake IDs off of the street every day."

Vernier added, "Because Arizona is home to three universities, we have an extraordinary amount of fake IDs used near the Flagstaff, Tucson, Tempe and Phoenix campuses. To combat the influx of fake IDs that are brought into the state by students, DLLC officers provide free fake ID training to state, county, university and local law enforcement officers, in addition to a civilian course designed for liquor licensees and their staff. Creating the training materials and offering the training at no cost would be impossible without funding from this grant, and several other grants awarded to us by GOHS."

Alberto Gutier, Director of GOHS, explains, "With grant assistance, DLLC will continue to offer training and lead underage drinking enforcement collaborations during the holiday weekends and large special events that take place all over Arizona throughout the year."

Citizens concerned about the sale of liquor to underage persons are encouraged to call 1-877-668-5345, Arizona's Underage Drinking Hotline. Violations may also be reported using a link on the homepage of the website at [www.azliquor.gov](http://www.azliquor.gov).

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