

Parent Notification Program

For several years the Enforcement Division applied for criminal complaints for underage individuals found in possession of alcoholic beverages or false identification. This process resulted in a negative experience for many families and a criminal record for several underage individuals. Under the direction of Treasurer Cahill, the Division implemented its "parent notification" program and has found it to be a tremendous success. Investigators call parents from liquor store parking lots or bars and inform them of the situation their child is in. Most parents are completely unaware that their children are involved in the use of alcohol and many drive to the location to pick them up and bring them home. Investigators have found that this type of intervention is a powerful tool toward a long-term family involvement in addressing the problem of underage drinking.

Drunk Driving Prevention

This program, known as "Operation Last Call" focuses on preventing intoxicated individuals from getting on the road as well as deterring bar owners from serving the potential drunk drivers. This past year the Enforcement Division developed a report of bars that were the top 30 "worst offenders" of bars that had been identified as being associated with the highest number of OUI convictions. The Enforcement Division cited 24 of those bars with selling alcohol to an intoxicated person and arranged safe transportation or protective custody for the intoxicated person. The bars were located in 22 municipalities in Suffolk, Middlesex, Worcester, Essex, Franklin, Bristol, Hampden and Norfolk counties. The 2008 data to date demonstrates a dramatic reduction (95%) in the number of OUI's originating from the bars that had been subject to the intensive liquor enforcement.

ABCC Investigators Training Local and State Law Enforcement Officers

The Enforcement Division works with Massachusetts Police Academies and Police Departments to educate local and state law enforcement officers in the enforcement of the Massachusetts Liquor Control Act as well as False Identification and Fraudulent Document Detection. This training enhances the prevention of underage drinking and drunk driving by developing local police department knowledge of and involvement in liquor law enforcement. The objective of this program is to maximize liquor law enforcement across the commonwealth. Since 2005, the Enforcement Division has conducted over 160 classes for approximately 150 local and state law enforcement agencies and approximately 3200 officers.

Illegal Gambling Enforcement

Under the direction of Treasurer Cahill, the Enforcement Division has conducted numerous enforcement operations against illegal gambling at bars throughout the commonwealth. The primary focus of these investigations is the illegal use of electronic poker machines for the purpose of illegal gambling. The ABCC receives numerous complaints from individuals whose husbands, wives or relatives have lost their weekly paycheck in these machines.

Since oversight of the ABCC was transferred to Treasurer Cahill, the Agency has prosecuted approximately 60 bars for illegal gambling. The ABCC estimates that each bar that illegally operates these machines, and the vending companies that supply them, garner up to \$10,000 per week in unreported income. At one bar Investigators uncovered information detailing machine income of \$896,235, machine payouts of \$584,905, and a net profit of \$311,328. This is income that should be going to the State Lottery so that the income retained will go back to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth for public safety and educational programs.