



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

800A Outlet Pointe Blvd., Columbia, South Carolina 29210
P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0575

SC INFORMATION LETTER #26-7

SUBJECT: Alcohol Server Training Compliance
(Alcohol Beverage Licensing)

DATE: January 27, 2026

AUTHORITY: S.C. Code Ann. Section 12-4-320 (2014)
SC Revenue Procedure #09-3

SCOPE: An Information Letter is a written statement issued to the public to announce general information useful in complying with the laws administered by the Department. An Information Letter has no precedential value.

Purpose

This Information Letter is to clarify when enforcement will begin for the new mandatory alcohol server training requirements imposed by House Bill 3430 (H. 3430).

Mandatory Alcohol Server Training

The South Carolina Legislature passed H. 3430, amending South Carolina's liquor liability laws, in 2025.¹ The Governor signed H. 3430 into law on May 8, 2025, with an effective date of January 1, 2026.² H. 3430 included new provisions requiring all employees of alcohol permittees and licensees who serve alcohol for on-premises consumption for at least ten hours a week and those that manage or supervise such employees to complete an alcohol server training program approved by the South Carolina Department of Revenue (the Department).³ H. 3430 included specific requirements of such training programs including the curricula that must be covered as well as how the training must be administered.⁴ Upon completion of an approved training program, individuals may apply to the Department to receive an alcohol server certificate.⁵

¹ 2025 S.C. Acts 61.

² Id.

³ S.C. Code Ann. § 61-3-110 (Supp. 2025).

⁴ S.C. Code Ann. § 61-3-120 (Supp. 2025).

⁵ S.C. Code Ann. § 61-3-130 (Supp. 2025).

Alcohol permittees and licensees are required to maintain physical or electronic copies of each employee's or manager's alcohol server certificate on their premises at all times.⁶ Alcohol permittees and licensees are also required to produce their employees' and managers' alcohol server certificates upon request by the Department or the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).⁷

Date for Compliance with Mandatory Server Training Requirements

While the law requiring alcohol server training became effective on January 1, 2026, the Department recognizes that many companies who previously offered alcohol server training had to revamp their programs to satisfy both the new curricula and administration requirements under H. 3430 and other companies interested in providing alcohol server training had to build a completely new program. The Department is aware that not many, if any, server training programs were approved and available prior to January 1, 2026. Therefore, the Department is delaying enforcement⁸ of the server training requirement until March 2, 2026⁹ to give servers, managers, and permit/license holders an opportunity to complete the required server training. Please note the March 2, 2026 compliance date applies to all employees and managers employed for at least thirty days prior to March 2, 2026. Employees and managers who are employed for less than thirty days prior to March 2, 2026 will have 30 days from their date of employment to complete the alcohol server training mandated under H. 3430.¹⁰

A list of all Department approved alcohol server training programs are available on our website at dor.sc.gov/alcohol-beverage-licensing-abl/recognized-training-programs. This website will be updated as additional programs are approved.

⁶ S.C. Code Ann. § 61-3-110(B).

⁷ Id.

⁸ S.C. Code Ann. § 61-3-140 (giving the Department along with SLED the authority to enforce the provisions in chapter 3 of title 61).

⁹ The Department chose a 60-day day grace period in keeping with the legislative intent established by Sections 61-3-110 and 61-2-145 providing a 30 or 60-day window for employees and managers to get trained. The Department chose the longer period to improve compliance.

¹⁰ S.C. Code Ann. § 61-3-110(A).