



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 339
[2015 Assembly Bill 864]

**Citations for Underage Alcohol
Beverage Violations**

2015 Wisconsin Act 339 relates to underage alcohol beverage violations on licensed premises.

BACKGROUND

State law prohibits any person from selling, dispensing, giving away to, or procuring alcohol for an underage person who is not accompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse who is of legal drinking age. Current law states that only one penalty may be imposed for an underage person who is provided alcohol, even if multiple individuals could potentially be cited for a violation. For example, either a bar owner or a bartender could potentially be cited if the bartender serves an underage person, but not both.

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 339

Act 339 provides that only the individual who actually served alcohol to the underage person may receive a citation if the violation is discovered through a law enforcement “sting” operation. Specifically, the Act provides that if a violation occurs on licensed premises, and is detected by an undercover underage person employed by or assisting a law enforcement agency, only the individual responsible for providing the alcohol to the underage person may be issued a citation for, or charged with, the violation.

Effective date: April 1, 2016

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.