



June 10, 2026

To: Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Licensees

Re: Accepting the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' Mobile ID as bona fide evidence of legal age.

Pursuant to § 4.1-304 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), it is unlawful to sell any alcoholic beverage to any individual when at the time of such sale the seller knew or had reason to believe the individual is less than 21 years of age. Section 4.1-304 further states that any person who sells any alcoholic beverage, and at the time of such sale, does not require the individual to present bona fide evidence of legal age indicating the individual is 21 years or older is also a violation of the Code. Bona fide evidence of legal age is limited to any evidence that is or reasonably appears to be *an unexpired driver's license issued by any state of the United States or the District of Columbia*, military identification card, United States passport or foreign government visa, *unexpired special identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles*, or any other valid government-issued identification card bearing the individual's photograph, signature, height, weight, and date of birth, or which bears a photograph that reasonably appears to match the appearance of the purchaser. These requirements are further reinforced by the provisions of 3VAC5-50-20 of the Virginia Administrative Code.

Effective September 24, 2025, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") launched the Virginia Mobile ID (mID) – a secure, digital version of a Virginia driver's license or ID card. Under Virginia law, the mID is an acceptable form of identification to demonstrate that an individual is at least 21 years of age. Specifically, § 46-230 of the Code states: Any provision of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Administrative Code, or a local ordinance or regulation with a display requirement, which may be satisfied by the display or possession of a physical credential for which the Department may issue an electronic credential, *may be satisfied by displaying or possessing an electronic credential issued pursuant to this article*.

The Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority ("VA ABC") accepts mID as bona fide evidence of legal age per the Code. VA ABC does not endorse nor recommend any particular company, product, or service for age verification. The Code states that acceptance of an electronic credential shall be at the discretion of the person to whom it is presented and subject to the conditions of the Code. Acceptance of mID for age authentication shall not alleviate any licensee of any responsibility, requirement, and/or liability to ensure sale and service is only available to consumers of legal age.

Please contact your local VA ABC regional office if you have any questions.

