Oregon Liquor Control Commission

History of the OLCC

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) was established in 1933 just days after the national repeal of prohibition. Oregon's governor, Julius Meier appointed Dr. William S. Knox and a special committee to study Oregon's options with regard to regulation of alcoholic beverages. The committee's final report, known as the Knox report, recommended a system similar to Canada. The committee believed this system would provide needed revenue for state and local services as well as keep alcohol abuse at a lower level. Based on the Knox report, the Oregon Legislative Assembly held a Special Session that created the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Accomplishments
Over the years, the OLCC has seen many successes including the Alcohol Server Education Program, Responsible Vendor Program, Clerk Training Program, and enforcement of Oregon's Bottle Bill. Since inception, the OLCC has given back $3.75 billion to taxpayers through revenue distributions to Oregon's General Fund, Oregon counties, incorporated cities and other programs.

Mission
The OLCC's mission is to promote the public interest through the responsible sale and service of alcoholic beverages. The OLCC balances its policies and practices so the needs of the various parts of the alcoholic beverage system are met in a socially responsible manner.

Public Safety
The OLCC focuses on public safety and community livability considerations when guiding alcohol beverage system growth. OLCC places high priority on operating in a socially responsible manner when creating policies for customer demand of alcoholic beverages and outlets.

Economic Development
The OLCC enables business people to be viable in their sale of alcohol, supporting economic viability for Oregonians. OLCC also manages the healthy growth of the Distilled Spirits Program so desired products reach the customer timely and efficiently.

Stewardship
The OLCC prides itself on being good stewards of the public by providing high quality customer service; working with local government, business partners and community partners as well as caring for assets, managing risks and protecting revenue flow.

OLCC's Board of Commissioners
The five citizen commissioners are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms, subject to Senate confirmation. Each commissioner represents a state congressional district and one is from the food and beverage industry. OLCC commissioners set general policy and appoint the agency executive director who supervises the agency's day-to-day operations.

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The Liquor Control Act, signed by the Governor on Dec. 15, 1933, gave the state exclusive rights to sell distilled spirits and fortified wine, as well as the authority to license private businesses to sell beer and table wine by the bottle.

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www.oregon.gov/OLCC

Key events in OLCC history

1844 – Prohibition vote in the OR Territory - first prohibition law in US, later repealed in 1845.

1914 – Oregonians vote to ban all liquor sales, preceding national prohibition by four years.

1930's

1933 – National prohibition ended. Oregon Liquor Control Act passed and OLCC created.
1936 – Enforcement Division formed to oversee liquor law enforcement and compliance.
1939 – Legislature adopts Wine Standards Act, giving Commission right to regulate wine trade.

1940's

1940 – Commission passes regulations prohibiting public marketing of liquor by brand name.
1941 – Hard alcohol restricted exclusively to retail establishments with full food service.
1941 – Moved from original site on E. Burnside to location on SE 11th.
1943 – Liquor rationed during WWII; OLCC acquires the Shawhan distillery in Bardstown, KY.
1945 – Oregon and Washington discontinue liquor production business.
1949 – The OLCC Education Advisory Committee created to warn people of alcohol abuse.

1950's

1951 – Five new classes of retail and wholesale license privileges created between 1951 & 1956.
1952 – Constitutional amendment to allow distilled spirits sales by the glass
1954 – Headquarters relocated from SE Portland to central warehouse and office in Milwaukie.
1957 – The position of OLCC Comptroller created to oversee all merchandising and finances.

1960's

1963 – Distribution of liquor profits modified to give an increased percentage to cities & counties.
1964 – First automated inventory and merchandise control system introduced in warehouse.

1970's

1971 – Bottle Bill adopted (enforced by OLCC) - "Oregon's most effective recycling system."
1973 – Legislature consolidates the convoluted maze of existing types of liquor licenses.
1974 – The conveyor system was installed in OLCC warehouse.
1979 – OLCC added 29,000 square feet of space to warehouse.

1980's

1981 – Number of commissioners increases to five, reflective of congressional districts.
1983 – Last state operated liquor store converts to retail store contract agent operation.

1990's

1995 – Implemented bailment inventory control system.
1996 – Regulatory Division begins to conduct minor decoy operations throughout the state.
1999 – Legislative Assembly establishes the Hearing Officer Panel in Employment Department.

2000's

2000 – Retail business licenses consolidated to four categories. Responsible Vendor Program debuts.
2002 – Warehouse Management System is implemented to sort and track all of the products in the distribution center.
2003 – Information Services overhaul; Data Management System modernizes record management processing.
2004 – Enforcement Division resumed structured training for sworn enforcement personnel.
2007 – OLCC purchases the Wilhelm Warehouse (Milport) - a 107,244-square-foot facility.
2008 – New Minor Posting introduced; OLCC turns profits of over $155 million per fiscal year.
2009 – First expansion of the Oregon Bottle Bill to include water containers and expand the kinds of containers large retailers are required to accept.

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