

ABOUT VIRGINIA ABC LAWS

Leverage VRLTA partnerships and advocate on behalf of your industry on Virginia ABC rules and regulations.

About Virginia ABC

Virginia's model for alcohol sales, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC), necessarily brings government deep into the business models of our industry. That makes misguided legislation regarding alcohol regulation even more dangerous to Virginia's hospitality industry.

For over three decades, VRLTA has partnered with Thomas "Tom" Lisk, now with the international law firm Cozen O'Connor, in an effort to deepen the impact of our advocacy efforts and provide our members with in-depth expertise on the Code of Virginia as it relates to ABC issues.

Fast Facts



In 2022, ABC gross revenues topped \$1.4 billion.



Virginia is one of 17 states (and several local jurisdictions) to operate under a control model.



Cozen O'Connor is ranked among the top 100 law firms in the country, with more than 825 attorneys in 30 cities across two continents.



Tom Lisk graduated cum laude from Washington & Lee University, and earned his law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law.

Our Efforts

We work with Tom and his colleagues on regulatory matters before agencies, boards, and commissions of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Tom was also appointed by the Virginia Code Commission to chair the Virginia Administrative Law Advisory Committee and represents VRLTA in off-season meetings with legislators.

We've also established VRLTA's ABC Subcommittee, which works to form and sharpen industry positions. The subcommittee also steers our advocacy efforts in the House Committee on General Laws, the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology, and to the ABC Authority as well.

VRLTA has worked to:

- Defeat threats to the industry such as attempts to establish "dram shop" third-party liability laws.
- Advanced proactive industry initiatives, such as the making permanent of "cocktails-to-go."
- Help citizens re-entering the workforce succeed further in hospitality by holding ABC Manager licenses.
- Defeated legislation that would have required ABC licensees to list alcohol content of cocktails on their menus.

For periodic updates regarding our efforts with Virginia ABC and other legislative initiatives, make sure to join our monthly to the Government Affairs call.