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**The Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission obtains a \$125,000 grant to combat sales to minors.**

Tennessee Highway Safety Office awards TABC \$125,000

(Nashville) The Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission has been awarded a \$125,000 grant from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office for a year-long program of special enforcement and industry awareness efforts to prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries by addressing the illegal sale of alcohol to minors (under 21 years of age). TABC will use the funding as part of the agency's ongoing commitment to keep Tennessee's roadways safe and improve the quality of life through regulation, enforcement and education.

"The goal is to prevent the sales of alcohol to minors before tragedy strikes" said Chief Law Enforcement Officer Bond Tubbs. "These funds from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office allow us to allocate more resources to the prevention of sales to minors, and in turn help prevent traffic collisions and traffic related deaths that might result from underage drinking".

TABC will use grant funds to deploy law enforcement personnel to areas of the state that have experienced a significant number of DUI related arrests and collisions. It will also assign agents to work at high profile events such as festivals, sporting events, and concerts. TABC law enforcement agents will conduct controlled purchases using minor decoys who will attempt to purchase alcohol from TABC licensed establishments. These establishments include restaurants, bars, liquor stores and retail stores.

"Nothing makes us happier than having one hundred percent compliance after a minor decoy operation", said Chief Tubbs. This grant emphasizes the two most effective ways to change behaviors – education and enforcement. Licensees who receive a citation for the first time will be



allowed to enroll all of their employees in a TABC training class to have their fine reduced.

TABC conducts over 1,600 decoy operations per year. Enforcement efforts have resulted in a significant decrease in sales of alcohol to minors:

**Statistics from 2015 to 2018**

<b><u>2015</u></b>	1663 compliance checks	22% non-compliance rate
<b><u>2016</u></b>	2201 compliance checks	20% non-compliance rate
<b><u>2017</u></b>	2157 compliance checks	16% non-compliance rate
<b><u>2018</u></b>	1696 compliance checks	13% non-compliance rate

Thanks to this grant, TABC will be able to strengthen its efforts to keep alcohol from being sold to minors and preventing the potential of DUI related injuries and fatalities.

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