



Act 1 of 2003 Requires One Chaperone For Every Fifty Minors of School-Sponsored Events.

Last year, legislative changes to Pennsylvania's Liquor Code, Act 212 of 2002, required school districts to provide one chaperone for every five minors at school-sponsored functions held in facilities holding a liquor license. This law immediately raised concerns for school districts which held proms, banquets or other school-sponsored events in hotels or other such locations. While the law did not prohibit the use of such establishments, schools were forced to consider whether they could provide the statutorily required number of chaperones or attempt to locate a facility that did not hold a liquor license yet was large enough to hold the event.

In response to these concerns, the legislature quickly enacted Act 1 of 2003 which now requires one chaperone for every fifty minors at any school-endorsed function held at such establishments. While school districts are still required to provide appropriate supervision at school-sponsored events at places holding a liquor license, this recent enactment provides districts a more reasonable ratio of chaperones-to-students. In light of the upcoming prom and banquet seasons, this new law should provide school districts with a sense of relief by requiring a reasonable number of chaperones to supervise their students and once again allow school districts to consider the use of hotels or banquet facilities for school-sponsored events.

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