



James Wilson
President
New Hampshire

Frederick Mahony
Vice President
Massachusetts

Joseph L. Cannon
Secretary/Treasurer
Virginia

Wes Kuhl
Sergeant At Arms
Arizona

Richard Cologie
Past President
Ohio

11720 Beltsville Drive
Suite 900
Calverton, MD 20705

Phone (301) 755-2795
Fax (301) 755-2799
www.nllea.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NTSB Recommends Identifying “Place of Last Drink” to Reduce Impaired Driving

Calverton, Maryland - November 29, 2012 - On Friday November 23rd the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) announced several recommendations as part of a continuing emphasis on the issue of substance-impaired driving. One of those recommendations is identifying the “place of last drink” (POLD). The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) has promoted the collection of POLD data for several years as a strategy for preventing impaired driving. As NTSB stated in their Safety Recommendations to the states, “An essential part of any arrest or accident investigation involving an alcohol-impaired driver should include an assertive effort by law enforcement officers to determine the location where the impaired driver had been served alcohol. This information is useful to state alcohol regulatory and law enforcement authorities conducting enforcement actions to deter future violations.”

At the NTSB Forum in May 2012, NLLEA Board Member and Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Chief Frederick Mahony presented information on the role that alcohol law enforcement officers can play in preventing impaired driving, and he provided 2008 data from Massachusetts that indicated that using POLD data to guide compliance and enforcement actions led to a reduction in driving under the influence arrests associated with establishments that were targeted for intervention.

In Massachusetts approximately 2,400 POLD reports are filed with the Commission each year. Officers use these data to identify the establishments that have the highest number of reports and pose the highest risk to public safety. Covert operations are then conducted at these locations and if an obviously intoxicated patron is served, agents will charge the bar and arrange for safe transportation or protective custody for the intoxicated individual. In 2010-2011 thirty-seven of these establishments were charged. Chief Ted Mahony states, “We see dramatic changes in the operations in the bars subject to this enforcement, from increased security and awareness to a change in concept of ownership.”

-more-

Increasing the collection of POLD data will provide states and law enforcement agencies with the information needed to target individuals and establishments that contribute to the problem of alcohol-impaired driving, either through providing alcohol to minors or over serving their patrons.

The NTSB recommends that the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia require law enforcement agencies to collect POLD data as part of any arrest or accident investigation involving an alcohol-impaired driver. NLLEA encourages each state to develop the collection and use of POLD data to be utilized in conducting over service enforcement and educational efforts. The NLLEA strongly believes that the use of POLD data to prioritize enforcement efforts can help prevent impaired driving, and NLLEA staff are available to assist states that request guidance on the suggested methods for collecting these data.

The NTSB press release can be viewed at www.nts.gov/news/2012/121123.html and the Safety Recommendations provided to the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia can be viewed at <http://www.nts.gov/doclib/reletters/2012/H-12-034-036.pdf>. For more information on the NLLEA, please visit our website at www.nllea.org.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

Rebecca Ramirez
NLLEA Executive Director
301-755-2795 or rebecca.ramirez@nllea.org

Frederick Mahony
Chief, Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
Vice President, NLLEA
857-453-2714 or Frederick.Mahony@state.ma.us

###