

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY SENATORS MORRELL AND PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Responsible Vendor Program to include server training courses addressing sexual assault and appropriate responses as part of its licensing requirements.

WHEREAS, since its creation, the Louisiana Responsible Vendor Program has trained and permitted thousands of servers in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Responsible Vendor Program was established to educate vendors and their employees about selling, serving, and consuming alcoholic beverages in a responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need to educate vendors and their employees about identifying sexual assault behaviors and strategies to prevent sexual assault from occurring; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that one-half of all violent crimes, including sexual assault, involve alcohol or drug consumption by the perpetrator, the victim, or both; and

WHEREAS, bartender training should increase bar staff understanding of the scope and causes of unwanted sexual aggression, manipulation, and violence and increase bar staff recognition of inappropriate behavior as it relates to sexual or relationship violence; and

WHEREAS, bartender trainer should provide bar staff with the skills needed to identify and respond to inappropriate behavior safely and appropriately, whether by stepping in as a bystander or when asked for help; and

WHEREAS, bartenders should be trained on how to effectively share with bar patrons safety messages that encourage respect and let customers know that bar staff are available for help; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish these goals, training should include but not be limited to the following: (1) Introduction to sexual assault and its effects on primary and secondary victims; (2) Louisiana law as it relates to sexual assault; (3) Information on physical appearance of drugs, the effects of drugs, street names for drugs, and methods of delivery; and (4) Identifying predators; and

WHEREAS, by strengthening bartender licensing requirements to include information on alcohol-facilitated and drug-facilitated sexual assault, Louisiana would be at the forefront of training bar staff to help identify and address sexual violence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Responsible Vendor Program to include server training courses addressing sexual assault and appropriate responses as part of its licensing requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE