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Your Illinois ID Is Going Digital: What This Means for Our Guests & Liquor-Licensed Businesses

Illinois just took a major step into the future: the Secretary of State has officially launched **Illinois Mobile ID**, allowing residents to add their state driver's license or ID directly to **Apple Wallet** on iPhone and Apple Watch.

This is a big convenience win for everyday patrons — and an important operational update for bars, restaurants, and liquor-licensed establishments across the state.

Below, we break down what this means for **you** as a guest at our bar, and what it means for **us** (and for the hundreds of liquor-licensed locations PSG supports).

What Guests Will Love About the New Digital ID

1. Convenience at Your Fingertips

No more digging through your wallet or worrying about whether you left your physical ID in another pair of jeans. Once added to Apple Wallet, your ID is available with a quick tap of your phone or watch — perfect when you're walking in for a burger, grabbing a drink, or heading to the slots.

2. Greater Privacy & Security

When a Mobile ID is presented, only the information required by the business (such as your photo and age verification) is shared. Other personal details — like your address — stay private.

Plus, the ID can't be accessed without your Face ID or Touch ID, adding an extra layer of protection that physical cards don't offer.

3. Faster Check-In

Using a Mobile ID can streamline the ID-check process at bars, restaurants, gaming rooms, and event spaces. It's quick, secure, and reduces wait times during busy nights.

What Bar Owners & Liquor-Licensed Establishments Need to Know

1. Acceptance Is Optional (for Now)

Illinois allows businesses to accept Mobile IDs — but doesn't require it.

Each bar, restaurant, or gaming location can choose whether to accept digital IDs, physical IDs, or both.

If your establishment decides to accept digital IDs, make sure your team is properly trained on the verification process.

2. How Businesses Verify a Mobile ID

To authenticate a patron's digital ID, businesses must use the **Illinois Mobile ID Check** app (available through the Apple App Store). The process is simple:

1. Your staff opens the Mobile ID Check app.
2. The guest holds their iPhone or Apple Watch near your device.
3. They authenticate the request with Face ID or Touch ID.
4. You receive a verified display showing their photo and confirmation that they're over 21.

Only the required information appears — nothing more.

3. Digital IDs *Do Not* Replace Physical IDs Completely

Even if a patron has a Mobile ID, **they are still required by law to carry their physical ID** for certain situations, especially anything involving driving or law enforcement.

As a business, it's wise to have a clear fallback policy for when a physical card may still be required.

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4. Staff May Not Handle or Search a Patron's Phone

Presenting a Mobile ID **does not** grant staff or law enforcement any right to search a patron's device. The Illinois program makes this explicitly clear.

Your team should verify only through the official Mobile ID Check app — nothing more.

5. Technology Requirements & Limitations

To use a Mobile ID, patrons need:

- iPhone 8 or later
- Apple Watch Series 4 or later (if being used on a watch)

Android support is expected in the future but is not yet available.

For this reason, plan for a hybrid environment where some guests use digital IDs and others continue using physical cards.

How Guests Can Add Their Illinois Mobile ID

If you want to get started:

1. Open the Wallet app on iPhone
2. Tap +
3. Select **Driver's License or State ID**
4. Choose **Illinois**
5. Follow the prompts to scan your physical ID
6. Complete identity verification and a quick selfie check

Full instructions are available on the Illinois Secretary of State's website.

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The Bottom Line

Illinois Mobile IDs bring a more secure, modern, and friction-free way to verify your identity — whether you're ordering a drink, entering a gaming area, or participating in promotional drawings.

We're excited to support this new technology and to continue improving the guest experience every step of the way.

If you have questions about how Mobile IDs work or how they affect your operations, feel free to visit the Illinois Secretary of State Website for more information.

<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/mobile-id/support.html>

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