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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

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HB 4232

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission opposes House Bill 4232.

Since 1981, Michigan law has required a person to be 18 years of age or older to sell or serve alcohol in Michigan. This was first required by administrative rule until 2008 when the requirement was placed into law. The MLCC has health and safety concerns over reducing the minimum age for a person to sell and serve alcohol to 17. Immaturity and peer pressure may contribute to a younger employee selling or serving other minors or intoxicated persons. People under the age of 18 may still work in a licensed establishment taking food orders, serving food, clearing tables, stocking shelves, and cashing out customers without alcoholic products, as long as they comply with the Youth Employment Standards Act. While the MLCC is sympathetic to the difficulties that licensees presently have filling positions that sell and serve alcohol, the MLCC is opposed to this legislation because of the long-term safety concerns with allowing 17-year-olds to sell and serve alcohol.

On-Premises Sales & Service (Bars/Restaurants/Tasting Rooms)

- Michigan's requirement for 18-year-olds or older to sell and serve alcohol is in line with the majority of other states.
- Only Maine currently allows the sale and service of alcohol for on-premises consumption by 17-year-olds.
- Regionally, Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin allow 18-year-olds to sell and serve alcohol at on-premises licensed locations; Indiana and Ohio allow 19-year-olds.

Off-Premises Sales (Grocery Stores/Convenience Stores/Liquor Stores)

- Michigan's requirement for 18-year-olds or older to sell alcohol is in line with the majority of other states.
- Thirty-two states, including Michigan, allow the sale and service of alcohol for off-premises consumption by 18-year-olds or older.
- Eighteen states allow people younger than 18 to sell alcohol for off-premises consumption.
- Regionally, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin allow 18-year-olds to sell alcohol at off-premises licensed locations; Indiana allows 19-year-olds.