

Act No. 175  
Public Acts of 2010  
Approved by the Governor  
September 30, 2010  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
September 30, 2010  
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2010

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
95TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

Introduced by Reps. Johnson and Meadows

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 6426**

AN ACT to amend 1998 PA 58, entitled "An act to create a commission for the control of the alcoholic beverage traffic within this state, and to prescribe its powers, duties, and limitations; to provide for powers and duties for certain state departments and agencies; to impose certain taxes for certain purposes; to provide for the control of the alcoholic liquor traffic within this state and to provide for the power to establish state liquor stores; to prohibit the use of certain devices for the dispensing of alcoholic vapor; to provide for the care and treatment of alcoholics; to provide for the incorporation of farmer cooperative wineries and the granting of certain rights and privileges to those cooperatives; to provide for the licensing and taxation of activities regulated under this act and the disposition of the money received under this act; to prescribe liability for retail licensees under certain circumstances and to require security for that liability; to provide procedures, defenses, and remedies regarding violations of this act; to provide for the enforcement and to prescribe penalties for violations of this act; to provide for allocation of certain funds for certain purposes; to provide for the confiscation and disposition of property seized under this act; to provide referenda under certain circumstances; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 205, 525, 543, 609, 901, 903, 909, and 1027 (MCL 436.1205, 436.1525, 436.1543, 436.1609, 436.1901, 436.1903, 436.1909, and 436.2027), section 205 as amended by 2001 PA 274, sections 525 and 1027 as amended by 2008 PA 218, section 543 as amended by 2005 PA 269, section 901 as amended by 2008 PA 11, and section 903 as amended by 2000 PA 431, and by adding sections 1029 and 1031.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 205. (1) The commission shall, as provided in section 203(1), by order appoint authorized distribution agents to engage in the warehousing and delivery of spirits in this state so as to ensure that all retail licensees continue to be properly serviced with spirits. An authorized distribution agent is subject to uniform requirements, including business operating procedures, that the commission may prescribe by rule, subject to this section.

(2) A person is eligible for appointment by the commission as an authorized distribution agent if the following circumstances exist:

(a) The person satisfies all applicable commission rules prescribing qualifications for licensure promulgated under section 215.

(b) The person has entered into a written agreement or contract with a supplier of spirits for the purposes of warehousing and delivering a brand or brands of spirits of that supplier of spirits.

(c) The person has an adequate warehousing facility located in this state for the storing of spirits from which all delivery of spirits to retail licensees shall be made.

(3) An authorized distribution agent shall not have a direct or indirect interest in a supplier of spirits or in a retailer. A supplier of spirits or a retailer shall not have a direct or indirect interest in an authorized distribution agent. An authorized distribution agent shall not hold title to spirits. After September 24, 1996, an authorized distribution agent or an applicant to become an authorized distribution agent who directly or indirectly becomes licensed subsequently as a wholesaler shall not be appointed to sell a brand of wine in a county or part of a county for which a wholesaler has been appointed to sell that brand under an agreement required by this act. A wholesaler who directly or indirectly becomes an authorized distribution agent shall not sell or be appointed to sell a brand of wine to a retailer in a county or part of a county for which another wholesaler has been appointed to sell that brand under an agreement required by this act, unless that wholesaler was appointed to sell and was actively selling that brand to retailers in that county or part of that county prior to September 24, 1996, or unless the sale and appointment is the result of an acquisition, purchase, or merger with the existing wholesaler who was selling that brand to a retailer in that county or part of that county prior to September 24, 1996.

(4) An authorized distribution agent shall deliver to each retailer located in its assigned distribution area on at least a weekly basis if the order meets the minimum requirements. Except that in those weeks that accompany a state holiday, the commission may order a modified delivery schedule provided that a retailer waits not longer than 9 days between deliveries due to a modified delivery schedule. The commission shall provide for an integrated on-line ordering system for spirits and shall require the continuance of any ordering system in existence on the activation date of the system established under section 206. The minimum requirements shall be set by the commission and shall be a sufficient number of bottles to comprise not more than 2 cases. A retailer may pick up the product at the authorized distribution agent's warehouse. To avoid occasional emergency outages of spirits, a retail licensee may make up to 12 special emergency orders to an authorized distribution agent per calendar year which order shall be made available to the retail licensee within 18 hours of the placing of the order. A special emergency order placed on Saturday or Sunday shall be made available to the retail licensee before noon on the following Monday. An authorized distribution agent may impose a fee of up to \$20.00 to deliver a special emergency order to a retail licensee.

(5) In locations inaccessible to a motor vehicle as that term is defined by the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923, the authorized distribution agent shall arrange that a delivery of spirits to a retailer be in compliance with the following procedures:

(a) After processing an order from a retailer, an authorized distribution agent shall contact a retailer to confirm the quantity of cases or bottles, or both, and the exact dollar total of the order.

(b) The authorized distribution agent shall have the responsibility to coordinate with the retailer the date and time a driver is scheduled to deliver the order to a ferry transport dock, shall arrange any ferry, drayage, or other appropriate service, and shall pick up the retailer's payment at that time.

(c) The ferry transport company or company representing any other form of conveyance shall take the retailer's payment to the mainland dock and give that payment to the authorized distribution agent's driver.

(d) The ferry transport company or company representing any other form of conveyance shall transport the order to the drayage or other appropriate company at the island dock for immediate delivery to the retailer.

(e) The drayage or other appropriate company shall deliver the order to the retailer.

(6) The authorized distribution agent is responsible for the payment of all transportation and delivery charges imposed by the ferry, drayage, or other conveyance company and is responsible for all breakage and any shortages, whether attributable to the ferry, drayage, or other conveyance company or any combination of those companies, until the order is delivered to the retailer's establishment. This subsection does not in any way prevent the authorized distribution agent from seeking reimbursement or damages from any company conveying the authorized distribution agent's product.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), an authorized distribution agent shall not charge a delivery fee or a split-case fee for delivery of spirits sold by the commission to a retailer.

(8) An authorized distribution agent or prospective authorized distribution agent shall maintain and make available to the commission or its representatives, upon notice, any contract or written agreement it may have with a supplier of spirits or other authorized distribution agent for the warehousing and delivery of spirits in this state.

(9) For any violation of this act, rules promulgated under this act, or the terms of an order appointing an authorized distribution agent, an authorized distribution agent shall be subject to the suspension, revocation, forfeiture, and penalty provisions of sections 903(1) and 907 in the same manner in which a licensee would be subject to those provisions. An authorized distribution agent aggrieved by a penalty imposed by the commission may invoke the hearing and appeal procedures of section 903(2) and rules promulgated under that section.

(10) A specially designated distributor may sell to an on-premises licensee up to 9 liters of spirits during any 1-month period and an on-premises licensee may purchase, collectively from specially designated distributors, up to that amount during any 1-month period. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act or rule promulgated under this act, a specially designated distributor is only liable for knowingly violating this section. Records verifying these purchases shall be maintained by the on-premises licensee and be available to the commission upon request.

(11) An authorized distribution agent shall demonstrate that it has made a good faith effort to provide employment to those former state employees who were terminated due to the privatization of the liquor distribution system. A good faith effort is demonstrated by the authorized distribution agent performing at least the following actions:

(a) Seeking from the commission a list of names and resumes of all such former state employees who have indicated a desire for continued employment in the distribution of liquor in Michigan.

(b) Providing a list of employment opportunities created by the authorized distribution agent in the distribution of liquor in Michigan to each individual whose name and resume is transmitted from the commission.

(c) Providing an opportunity for application and interview to any terminated state worker who indicates an interest in pursuing a job opportunity with the authorized distribution agent.

(d) Providing a priority in hiring for those individuals who apply and interview under this process.

(12) Any former state employees terminated due to privatization who have reason to believe that an authorized distribution agent has not made a good faith effort to provide him or her with employment opportunities as described in subsection (11) may file a complaint with the commission who shall hear the complaint and make a determination on its validity. If the commission determines that the complaint is valid, the violation may be treated as a violation of this act and the authorized distribution agent may be subject to the suspension, revocation, forfeiture, and penalty provisions of sections 903(1) and 907.

(13) In addition to paying a vendor of spirits the acquisition price for purchasing spirits, the commission may pay a vendor of spirits an additional amount of not less than \$4.50 and not more than \$7.50 for each case of spirits purchased as an offset to the costs being incurred by that vendor of spirits in contracting with an authorized distribution agent for the warehousing and delivery of spirits to retailers. The payment described in this subsection shall not be included in the cost of purchasing spirits by the commission and shall not be subject to the commission's markup, special taxes, or state sales tax. The per-case offset established by this subsection may be increased by the state administrative board each January to reflect reasonable increases in the authorized distribution agent's cost of warehousing and delivery. As used in this subsection, "case" means a container holding twelve 750 ml bottles of spirits or other containers containing spirits which are standard to the industry.

Sec. 525. (1) Except as otherwise provided for in this section, the following license fees shall be paid at the time of filing applications or as otherwise provided in this act:

(a) Manufacturers of spirits, but not including makers, blenders, and rectifiers of wines containing 21% or less alcohol by volume, \$1,000.00.

(b) Manufacturers of beer, \$50.00 per 1,000 barrels, or fraction of a barrel, production annually with a maximum fee of \$1,000.00, and in addition \$50.00 for each motor vehicle used in delivery to retail licensees. A fee increase does not apply to a manufacturer of less than 15,000 barrels production per year.

(c) Outstate seller of beer, delivering or selling beer in this state, \$1,000.00.

(d) Wine makers, blenders, and rectifiers of wine, including makers, blenders, and rectifiers of wines containing 21% or less alcohol by volume, \$100.00. The small wine maker license fee is \$25.00.

(e) Outstate seller of wine, delivering or selling wine in this state, \$300.00.

(f) Outstate seller of mixed spirit drink, delivering or selling mixed spirit drink in this state, \$300.00.

(g) Dining cars or other railroad or Pullman cars selling alcoholic liquor, \$100.00 per train.

(h) Wholesale vendors other than manufacturers of beer, \$300.00 for the first motor vehicle used in delivery to retail licensees and \$50.00 for each additional motor vehicle used in delivery to retail licensees.

(i) Watercraft, licensed to carry passengers, selling alcoholic liquor, a minimum fee of \$100.00 and a maximum fee of \$500.00 per year computed on the basis of \$1.00 per person per passenger capacity.

(j) Specially designated merchants, for selling beer or wine for consumption off the premises only but not at wholesale, \$100.00 for each location regardless of the fact that the location may be a part of a system or chain of merchandising.

(k) Specially designated distributors licensed by the commission to distribute spirits and mixed spirit drink in the original package for the commission for consumption off the premises, \$150.00 per year, and an additional fee of \$3.00 for each \$1,000.00 or major fraction of that amount in excess of \$25,000.00 of the total retail value of merchandise purchased under each license from the commission during the previous calendar year.

(l) Hotels of class A selling beer and wine, a minimum fee of \$250.00 and, for all bedrooms in excess of 20, \$1.00 for each additional bedroom, but not more than \$500.00.

(m) Hotels of class B selling beer, wine, mixed spirit drink, and spirits, a minimum fee of \$600.00 and, for all bedrooms in excess of 20, \$3.00 for each additional bedroom. If a hotel of class B sells beer, wine, mixed spirit drink, and spirits in more than 1 public bar, the fee entitles the hotel to sell in only 1 public bar, other than a bedroom, and a license shall be secured for each additional public bar, other than a bedroom, the fee for which is \$350.00.

(n) Taverns, selling beer and wine, \$250.00.

(o) Class C license selling beer, wine, mixed spirit drink, and spirits, \$600.00. If a class C licensee sells beer, wine, mixed spirit drink, and spirits in more than 1 bar, a fee of \$350.00 shall be paid for each additional bar. In municipally owned or supported facilities in which nonprofit organizations operate concession stands, a fee of \$100.00 shall be paid for each additional bar.

(p) Clubs selling beer, wine, mixed spirit drink, and spirits, \$300.00 for clubs having 150 or fewer duly accredited members and \$1.00 for each additional member. The membership list for the purpose only of determining the license fees to be paid under this subdivision shall be the accredited list of members as determined by a sworn affidavit 30 days before the closing of the license year. This subdivision does not prevent the commission from checking a membership list and making its own determination from the list or otherwise. The list of members and additional members is not required of a club paying the maximum fee. The maximum fee shall not exceed \$750.00 for any 1 club.

(q) Warehouse, to be fixed by the commission with a minimum fee for each warehouse of \$50.00.

(r) Special licenses, a fee of \$50.00 per day, except that the fee for that license or permit issued to any bona fide nonprofit association, duly organized and in continuous existence for 1 year before the filing of its application, is \$25.00. Not more than 12 special licenses may be granted to any organization, including an auxiliary of the organization, in a calendar year.

(s) Airlines licensed to carry passengers in this state that sell, offer for sale, provide, or transport alcoholic liquor, \$600.00.

(t) Brandy manufacturer, \$100.00.

(u) Mixed spirit drink manufacturer, \$100.00.

(v) Brewpub, \$100.00.

(w) Class G-1, \$1,000.00.

(x) Class G-2, \$500.00.

(y) Motorsports event license, \$250.00.

(z) Small distiller, \$100.00.

(aa) Wine auction license, \$50,000.00.

(2) The fees provided in this act for the various types of licenses shall not be prorated for a portion of the effective period of the license. Notwithstanding subsection (1), the initial license fee for any licenses issued under section 531(3) and (4) is \$20,000.00. The renewal license fee shall be the amount described in subsection (1). However, the commission shall not impose the \$20,000.00 initial license fee for applicants whose license eligibility was already approved on July 20, 2005.

(3) Beginning July 23, 2004, and except in the case of any resort or resort economic development license issued under section 531(2), (3), (4), and (5) and a license issued under section 521, the commission shall issue an initial or renewal license not later than 90 days after the applicant files a completed application. Receipt of the application is considered the date the application is received by any agency or department of the state of Michigan. If the application is considered incomplete by the commission, the commission shall notify the applicant in writing, or make the information electronically available, within 30 days after receipt of the incomplete application, describing the deficiency and requesting the additional information. The determination of the completeness of an application does not operate as an approval of the application for the license and does not confer eligibility upon an applicant determined otherwise ineligible for issuance of a license. The 90-day period is tolled under any of the following circumstances:

(a) Notice sent by the commission of a deficiency in the application until the date all of the requested information is received by the commission.

(b) The time period during which actions required by a party other than the applicant or the commission are completed that include, but are not limited to, completion of construction or renovation of the licensed premises; mandated inspections by the commission or by any state, local, or federal agency; approval by the legislative body of a local unit of government; criminal history or criminal record checks; financial or court record checks; or other actions mandated by this act or rule or as otherwise mandated by law or local ordinance.

(4) If the commission fails to issue or deny a license within the time required by this section, the commission shall return the license fee and shall reduce the license fee for the applicant's next renewal application, if any, by 15%. The failure to issue a license within the time required under this section does not allow the commission to otherwise delay the processing of the application, and that application, upon completion, shall be placed in sequence with other completed applications received at that same time. The commission shall not discriminate against an applicant in the processing of the application based upon the fact that the license fee was refunded or discounted under this subsection.

(5) Beginning October 1, 2005, the chair of the commission shall submit a report by December 1 of each year to the standing committees and appropriations subcommittees of the senate and house of representatives concerned with

liquor license issues. The chair of the commission shall include all of the following information in the report concerning the preceding fiscal year:

(a) The number of initial and renewal applications the commission received and completed within the 90-day time period described in subsection (3).

(b) The number of applications denied.

(c) The number of applicants not issued a license within the 90-day time period and the amount of money returned to licensees under subsection (4).

(6) As used in this section, "completed application" means an application complete on its face and submitted with any applicable licensing fees as well as any other information, records, approval, security, or similar item required by law or rule from a local unit of government, a federal agency, or a private entity but not from another department or agency of the state of Michigan.

Sec. 543. (1) Quarterly, upon recommendation of the commission, the state shall pay pursuant to appropriation in the manner prescribed by law to the city, village, or township in which a full-time police department or full-time ordinance enforcement department is maintained or, if a police department or full-time ordinance enforcement department is not maintained, to the county, to be credited to the sheriff's department of the county in which the licensed premises are located, 55% of the amount of the proceeds of the retailers' license fees and license renewal fees collected in that jurisdiction, for the specific purpose of enforcing this act and the rules promulgated under this act. Forty-one and one-half percent of the amount of the proceeds of retailers' license and license renewal fees collected shall be deposited in a special fund to be annually appropriated to the commission for carrying out the licensing and enforcement provisions of this act. Any unencumbered or uncommitted money in the special fund shall revert to the general fund of the state 12 months after the end of each fiscal year in which the funds were collected. The legislature shall appropriate 3-1/2% of the amount of the proceeds of retailers' license and license renewal fees collected to be credited to a special fund in the state treasury for the purposes of promoting and sustaining programs for the prevention, rehabilitation, care, and treatment of alcoholics. This subsection does not apply to retail license fees collected for railroad or Pullman cars, watercraft, aircraft, or wine auctions or to the transfer fees provided in section 529.

(2) All license and license renewal fees, other than retail license and license renewal fees, shall be credited to the grape and wine industry council created in section 303, to be used as provided in section 303. Money credited to the grape and wine industry council shall not revert to the state general fund at the close of the fiscal year, but shall remain in the account to which it was credited to be used as provided in section 303.

(3) All retail license fees collected for railroad or Pullman cars, watercraft, or aircraft and the transfer fees provided in section 529 shall be deposited in the special fund created in subsection (1) for carrying out the licensing and enforcement provisions of this act.

(4) The license fee enhancement imposed for licenses issued under section 531(3) and (4) shall be deposited into a special fund to be annually appropriated to the commission for enforcement and other related projects determined appropriate by the commission. The money representing that amount of the license fees for identical licenses not issued under section 531(3) and (4) shall be allocated and appropriated under subsection (1).

(5) The license fee imposed on direct shipper licenses and any violation fines imposed by the commission shall be deposited into the direct shipper enforcement revolving fund. The direct shipper enforcement revolving fund is created within the state treasury. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments. Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund. The commission shall expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only for enforcement of the provisions of section 203 and related projects.

(6) One hundred percent of the wine auction license fee imposed in section 525(1)(aa) shall be deposited into the general fund.

(7) As used in this section, "license fee enhancement" means the money representing the difference between the license fee imposed for a license under section 525(1) and the additional amount imposed for resort and resort economic development licenses under section 525(2).

Sec. 609. Except as provided in sections 605 and 1029, a manufacturer, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, warehouse, wholesaler, outstate seller of beer, outstate seller of wine, outstate seller of mixed spirit drink, or vendor of spirits shall not aid or assist any other vendor by gift, loan of money or property of any description, or other valuable thing, or by the giving of premiums or rebates, and a vendor shall not accept the same. However, if manufacturers of spirits reduce the price of their products, the manufacturer of spirits may refund the amount of the price reductions to specially designated distributor licensees in a manner prescribed by the commission.

Sec. 901. (1) A person, directly or indirectly, himself or herself or by his or her clerk, agent, or employee, shall not manufacture, manufacture for sale, sell, offer or keep for sale, barter, furnish, import, import for sale, transport for hire, transport, or possess any alcoholic liquor unless the person complies with this act.

(2) A licensee shall not allow unlawful gambling on the licensed premises and shall not allow on the licensed premises any gaming devices prohibited by law.

(3) A licensee shall not sell, offer or keep for sale, furnish, possess, or allow a customer to consume alcoholic liquor that is not authorized by the license issued to the licensee by the commission.

(4) A person, whether or not a licensee, shall not sell, deliver, or import spirits unless the sale, delivery, or importation is made by the commission, the commission's authorized agent or distributor, an authorized distribution agent certified by order of the commission, a person licensed by the commission, or by prior written order of the commission. A person who violates this subsection is subject to the sanctions and penalties contained in section 909(4) and, in the case of a violation of section 909(4)(a), is subject to forfeiture of proceeds or an instrumentality as provided for in chapter XXVA of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.159f to 750.159x.

(5) A licensee shall not sell or furnish alcoholic liquor to a person who maintains, operates, or leases premises that are not licensed by the commission and upon which other persons unlawfully engage in the sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor for consideration as prohibited by section 913.

(6) A retail licensee shall not, on his or her licensed premises, sell, offer for sale, accept, furnish, possess, or allow the consumption of alcoholic liquor that has not been purchased by the retail licensee from the commission, the commission's authorized agent or distributor, an authorized distribution agent certified by order of the commission, or a licensee of the commission authorized to sell that alcoholic liquor to a retail licensee. This subsection does not apply to the consumption of alcoholic liquor in the bedrooms or suites of registered guests of licensed hotels or in the bedrooms or suites of bona fide members of licensed clubs.

Sec. 903. (1) The commission or any commissioner or duly authorized agent of the commission designated by the chairperson of the commission, upon due notice and proper hearing, may suspend or revoke any license upon a violation of this act or any of the rules promulgated by the commission under this act. The commission or any commissioner or duly authorized agent of the commission designated by the chairperson of the commission, may assess a penalty of not more than \$300.00 for each violation of this act or rules promulgated under this act, or not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation of section 801(2), in addition to or in lieu of revocation or suspension of the license, which penalty shall be paid to the commission and deposited with the state treasurer and shall be credited to the general fund of the state. The commission shall hold a hearing and order the suspension or revocation of a license if the licensee has been found liable for 3 or more separate violations of section 801(2) which violations occurred on different occasions within a 24-month period unless such violations for the sale, furnishing, or giving alcoholic liquor to a minor were discovered by the licensee and disclosed to an appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon discovery. A retail licensee who sells, offers to sell, accepts, furnishes, possesses, or allows the consumption of spirits in violation of section 901(6) is subject to an administrative fine of not more than \$2,500.00 per occurrence and the following license sanctions after notice and opportunity for an administrative hearing under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328:

(a) For a first violation, a license revocation or suspension for between 1 and 30 days.

(b) For a second violation, a license revocation or suspension for between 31 and 90 days.

(c) For a third or subsequent violation, revocation of the license.

(2) The commission shall provide a procedure by which a licensee who is aggrieved by any penalty imposed under subsection (1) and any suspension or revocation of a license ordered by the commission, a commissioner, or a duly authorized agent of the commission may request a hearing for the purpose of presenting any facts or reasons to the commission as to why the penalty, suspension, or revocation should be modified or rescinded. Any such request shall be in writing and accompanied by a fee of \$25.00. The commission, after reviewing the record made before a commissioner or a duly authorized agent of the commission, may allow or refuse to allow the hearing in accordance with the commission's rules. The right to a hearing provided in this subsection, however, shall not be interpreted by any court as curtailing, removing, or annulling the right of the commission to suspend or revoke licenses as provided for in this act. A licensee does not have a right of appeal from the final determination of the commission, except by leave of the circuit court. Notice of the order of suspension or revocation of a license or of the assessment of a penalty, or both, shall be given in the manner prescribed by the commission. The suspension or revocation of a license or the assessment of a penalty, or both, by the commission or a duly authorized agent of the commission does not prohibit the institution of a criminal prosecution for a violation of this act. The institution of a criminal prosecution for a violation of this act or the acquittal or conviction of a person for a violation of this act does not prevent the suspension or revocation of a license or the assessment of a penalty, or both, by the commission. In a hearing for the suspension or revocation of a license issued under this act, proof that the defendant licensee or an agent or employee of the licensee demanded and was shown, before furnishing any alcoholic liquor to a minor, a motor vehicle operator or chauffeur license or a registration certificate issued by the federal selective service, or other bona fide documentary evidence of majority and identity of the person, may be offered as evidence in a defense to a proceeding for the suspension or revocation of a license issued under this act. A licensee who has reason to believe that a minor has used fraudulent identification to purchase alcoholic liquor in violation of section 703 shall file a police report concerning the violation with a local law enforcement agency and shall

also present the alleged fraudulent identification to the local law enforcement agency at the time of filing the report if the identification is in the possession of the licensee. The commission may promulgate rules pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, regarding the utilization by licensees of equipment designed to detect altered or forged driver licenses, state identification cards, and other forms of identification.

(3) In addition to the hearing commissioners provided for in section 209, the chairperson of the commission may designate not more than 2 duly authorized agents to hear violation cases. A person appointed under this subsection shall be a member in good standing of the state bar of Michigan.

(4) A duly authorized agent who has been designated by the chairperson pursuant to subsection (3) shall have, in the hearing of violation cases, the same authority and responsibility as does a hearing commissioner under this act and the rules promulgated under this act.

(5) A duly authorized agent who has been designated by the chairperson pursuant to subsection (3) shall be ineligible for appointment to the commission for a period of 1 year after the person ceases to serve as a duly authorized agent.

Sec. 909. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, a person, other than a person required to be licensed under this act, who violates this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this act, a licensee who violates this act, or a rule or regulation promulgated under this act, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

(3) A person who performs any act for which a license is required under this act without first obtaining that license or who sells alcoholic liquor in a county that has prohibited the sale of alcoholic liquor under section 1107 is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(4) A person, whether or not a licensee, who violates section 901(4) is subject to the following penalties or sanctions:

(a) A person who sells, delivers, or imports spirits in violation of section 901(4) in the amount of at least 80,000 milliliters is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 4 years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(b) A person who sells, delivers, or imports spirits in violation of section 901(4) in the amount of at least 8,000 milliliters but less than 80,000 milliliters is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$2,500.00, or both.

(c) A person who sells, delivers, or imports spirits in violation of section 901(4) in the amount of less than 8,000 milliliters is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

(5) The remedies under this act are cumulative and independent. The use of 1 remedy by a person does not bar the use of other lawful remedies by that person or the use of a lawful remedy by another person.

(6) It is the intent of the legislature that the court, in imposing punishment under this section, should discriminate between casual or slight violations and habitual sales of alcoholic liquor or attempts to commercialize violations of this act or the rules or regulations promulgated under this act.

Sec. 1027. (1) Unless otherwise provided by rule of the commission, a person shall not conduct samplings or tastings of any alcoholic liquor for a commercial purpose except at premises that are licensed by the commission for the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor on the premises.

(2) This section does not prevent either of the following:

(a) A vendor of spirits, brewer, wine maker, mixed spirit drink manufacturer, small wine maker, outstate seller of beer, outstate seller of wine, or outstate seller of mixed spirit drink, or a bona fide market research organization retained by 1 of the persons named in this subsection, from conducting samplings or tastings of an alcoholic liquor product before it is approved for sale in this state if the sampling or tasting is conducted pursuant to prior written approval of the commission.

(b) An on-premises licensee from giving a sampling or tasting of alcoholic liquor to an employee of the licensee during the legal hours for consumption for the purpose of educating the employee regarding 1 or more types of alcoholic liquor so long as the employee is at least 21 years of age.

(c) A small distiller licensee from giving a sampling or tasting of brands it manufactures on the licensed premises.

(3) A vendor of spirits or a manufacturer may conduct a consumer sampling event on the premises of a holder of a specially designated distributor license upon submission of a completed application to the commission.

(4) The holder of the consumer sampling event license shall comply with the following:

(a) The commission must be notified in writing a minimum of 10 working days prior to the event with the date, time, and location of the event.

(b) The consumer sampling event is limited to 3 events per vendor of spirits or manufacturer per specially designated distributor license per month.

(c) The vendor of spirits or manufacturer conducting the consumer sampling event must have a licensed representative present at the specially designated distributor's establishment.

(d) Licensed representatives or an authorized representative may distribute merchandise, not to exceed \$100.00 in value, to consumers 21 years of age or older during the event.

(e) Participating specially designated distributor licensees do not receive any fee or other valuable consideration for participating in the event.

(f) Each consumer is limited to 3 samples, which total no more than 1/3 ounce of distilled spirits per serving.

(g) The consumer is not charged for and does not purchase any sample.

(h) The alcoholic liquor used in the consumer sampling event is provided by the vendor of spirits or manufacturer, and purchased at the minimum retail selling price fixed by the commission from the specially designated distributor on whose premises the event is located. The vendor of spirits or manufacturer shall remove any unfinished product from the premises at which the event is held upon completion of the event.

(i) A consumer sampling event shall not be allowed when the sale of alcoholic liquor is otherwise prohibited on the premises at which the event is conducted.

(j) Samples are not to be offered to, or allowed to be consumed by, any person under the legal age for consuming alcoholic liquor.

(k) A consumer sampling event may be advertised in any type of media and the advertisements may include the date, time, location, and other information regarding the event.

(l) The participating vendor of spirits or manufacturer and specially designated distributor licensees must comply with this act and commission rules.

(m) The vendor of spirits or manufacturer must demonstrate that the individual actually conducting the sampling has successfully completed the server training program in the manner provided for in section 906 and rules promulgated by the commission.

(5) Violation of this subsection subjects the vendor of spirits or manufacturer to the sanctions and penalties as provided for under this act.

(6) The commission, by rule or issuance of an order, may further define eligibility for licensure and processes for conducting consumer sampling events.

(7) A sampling or tasting of any alcoholic liquor in a home or domicile for other than a commercial purpose is not subject to this section.

(8) For purposes of this section, "commercial purpose" means a purpose for which monetary gain or other remuneration could reasonably be expected.

Sec. 1029. (1) The commission, by promulgation of a rule, issuance of an order, or execution of a memorandum of understanding with the department of treasury, or any combination thereof, may allow the conduct by a manufacturer or outstate seller of spirits of a preapproved program for marketing spirits by inclusion of nonalcoholic carbonated beverages to be packaged with spirits. The commission may, in conjunction with the department of treasury, adopt a program that disallows the redemption of returnable containers from the commission but otherwise allows redemption of Michigan-sold returnable containers at other venues, and shall allow for a system of appropriate allocation of funds under 1976 IL 1, MCL 445.571 to 445.576, by means of the issuance of an order or by adoption of a rule.

(2) The commission shall provide for a system of non-mail-in or instant coupon transactions that does not diminish the spirit product margins allocated to the state under this act by means of the issuance of an order or by adoption of a rule.

Sec. 1031. (1) As used in this section, "wine auction license" means a license issued by the commission to sell wine by auction, subject to the following:

(a) The wine is sold through an auction by a person licensed as a specially designated merchant or through a seller partnering with a specially designated merchant, as evidenced by a written agreement of the parties.

(b) The owner of the wine is not licensed under this act.

(c) The wine is part of a private collection owned by a person not licensed under this act.

(d) The specially designated merchant ensures that each bottle sold from the private collection has a permanently affixed tag or label stating that the wine was acquired from a private collection.

(2) Upon submission of a completed application and the license fee described in section 525(1)(aa), the commission shall issue a wine auction license to a person licensed as a specially designated merchant, or a seller partnering with a specially designated merchant, who is arranging for the sale of wine by an owner that is not licensed under this act. The



commission shall issue the license for a term of 1 year. The license allows the licensee to hold not more than 12 auctions per license year.

(3) The license restrictions as prescribed under this section and under this act are in addition to those requirements and prescriptions imposed by any local law or ordinance, or resolution of the local unit of government.

(4) The holder of the wine auction license is responsible for the payment of any applicable sales or excise taxes regarding the sale of the wine by auction.

(5) The holder of the wine auction license is responsible for the delivery, storing, and warehousing of the wine offered for sale and for the delivery of the wine to the purchasers.

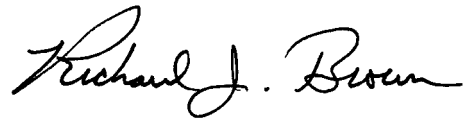
(6) A person licensed to sell wine at wholesale or retail may purchase any wine offered at an auction under this section and may resell that wine in accordance with the terms of his or her license, so long as the tag or label remains permanently affixed to the bottle upon sale.

(7) The sale and resale of wine purchased at auction is subject to this act and any rules of the commission promulgated under this act.

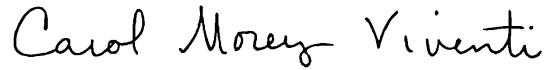
(8) A person holding a wine auction license is not required to demonstrate compliance with the registration requirements of article 29 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.2901 to 339.2919.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless House Bill No. 6427 of the 95th Legislature is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor