

# Legislative Analysis



## PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS TOURNAMENT LIQUOR LICENSE

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**Senate Bill 820 as passed by the Senate**  
**Sponsor: Sen. Kimberly LaSata**  
**House Committee: Ways and Means**  
**Senate Committee: Regulatory Reform**  
**Complete to 11-10-20**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 820 would amend the Michigan Liquor Control Code to include the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour Champions Tournament as a sports-related event eligible to receive a national sporting event license that allows the sale of alcohol on the premises. Eligibility for the license would not be only for a specific calendar year or years.

The Liquor Control Code allows special liquor licenses to be issued for the duration of national sporting events under certain circumstances, including if the event is conducted under the auspices of a national sanctioning body and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) determines that the event will attract a substantial number of tourists from outside the state.

A national sporting event license is issued for not more than 30 days and must be for specific designated time periods that include the event and activities associated with it.

The governing body of a host local unit of government must provide to the MLCC, for its review, a list of the applicants and locations of the premises to be licensed. The governing body must recommend the number of licenses to be issued in the theme area or areas. The MLCC cannot issue any licenses not recommended by the local unit of government. The local governing body must also provide written certification to the MLCC that all premises to be licensed comply with applicable state and local building, safety, and health laws, rules, and regulations. A licensee does not have to meet the usual requirements about proximity to a church or school.

The PGA Tour Champions Tournament has been designated a national sporting event under the Liquor Code and eligible for such a license, but only during specific calendar years, the last of which is 2020.

The bill would remove the calendar year restriction on this designation and provide that the PGA Tour Champions Tournament is a national sporting event for purposes of the Liquor Code regardless of when its events take place.

MCL 436.1517a

**BACKGROUND:**

Formerly known as the Senior PGA Tour, the PGA Tour Champions Tour features some of golf's top golfers who are over 50 years of age.

PGA Tour Champions Tournament events that were scheduled to be held in Michigan in 2020 included the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at the Golf Club at Harbor Shores, Benton Harbor (May 21 to 24), and the Ally Challenge at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, Grand Blanc (July 31 to August 2).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship was canceled. It is scheduled return to Harbor Shores in 2022 and 2024.

The 2020 Ally Challenge went forward, but without spectators. The 2021 Ally Challenge is currently scheduled for August 23 to 29 at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, Grand Blanc.

Other past events for which a national sporting event license was issued by the MLCC include the 2004 Ryder Cup, the 2006 NFL Super Bowl, the 2008 PGA Championship, the 2009 NCAA Final Four, the U.S. Golf Association Amateur Championship in 2016, and several recent events of the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour Champions Tournament.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 820 would not have an appreciable fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs or on any other unit of state or local government. The bill would apply to such a limited number of licenses that the fiscal impact would be negligible. Current law requires a \$1,000 fee for licenses that would be allowed under this bill. Revenue from this fee is deposited into the Michigan Craft Beverage Council Fund and is used for grants and activities of the council, as is provided in statute.

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