

SENATE BILL NO. 681

October 30, 2025, Introduced by Senator ALBERT and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1998 PA 58, entitled
"Michigan liquor control code of 1998,"
by amending section 303 (MCL 436.1303), as amended by 2018 PA 154.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 303. (1) The grape and wine industry council created
2 under Executive Reorganization Order No. 2014-2, MCL 333.26253,
3 ~~shall be~~**is** housed within the department of agriculture and rural
4 development. Beginning on ~~the effective date of the 2018 amendatory~~
5 ~~act that amended this section,~~**October 1, 2018,** the council ~~shall~~
6 ~~be~~**is** known as the Michigan craft beverage council and ~~shall~~

1 ~~consist~~**consists** of the following members:

2 (a) As a nonvoting member, the director of the department of
3 agriculture and rural development or his or her designee.

4 (b) Subject to subsection (2), the following voting members,
5 appointed by the governor:

6 (i) A representative of retail food establishments that hold a
7 specially designated merchant license and sell Michigan wines or
8 beer.

9 (ii) A representative of restaurants that hold a class C
10 license and serve Michigan wines, beer, or spirits.

11 (iii) Two representatives of wine makers.

12 (iv) A representative of wine makers that primarily manufacture
13 cider.

14 (v) A representative of large brewers.

15 (vi) One of the following:

16 (A) A representative of micro brewers.

17 (B) A representative of brewpub license holders.

18 (vii) A representative of small distillers.

19 (viii) A representative of distillers that manufacture more than
20 60,000 gallons of spirits per year.

21 (2) The following apply to a member of the council appointed
22 under subsection (1)(b):

23 (a) The member's principal place of business must be located
24 in this state.

25 (b) The member must not be a lobbyist or a lobbyist agent as
26 those terms are defined in section 5 of 1978 PA 472, MCL 4.415.

27 (3) Voting members of the council appointed by the governor
28 under subsection (1) shall serve for terms of 3 years or until a
29 successor is appointed, whichever is later, except that of the

1 voting members first appointed, 3 shall serve for 1 year, 3 shall
2 serve for 2 years, and 3 shall serve for 3 years. A voting member
3 shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms. A vacancy on the
4 board shall be filled in the same manner as the original
5 appointment. The director of the department of agriculture and
6 rural development is the chairperson of the council.

7 (4) The council may employ personnel and incur expenses that
8 are necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the council
9 under this act. A member of the council or an employee or agent of
10 the council is not personally liable on the contracts of the
11 council.

12 (5) A nongovernmental member of the council may receive \$50.00
13 per day for each day spent in actual attendance at meetings of the
14 council and traveling expenses while on council business in
15 accordance with standard travel regulations of the department of
16 technology, management, and budget.

17 (6) The council shall maintain accurate books and records, and
18 all money received by the council ~~shall~~**must** be used to implement
19 and enforce this section. The council may accept money from any
20 source for the purpose of carrying out this section. All money
21 received by the council ~~shall~~**must** be forwarded to the state
22 treasurer for deposit into the Michigan craft beverage council fund
23 created in section 303a.

24 (7) Subject to an appropriation, the council shall direct the
25 department of agriculture and rural development to award grants for
26 the following:

27 (a) Research into both of the following:

28 (i) Fruits used in winemaking and wines, including, but not
29 limited to, methods of planting, growing, controlling insects and

diseases, charting microclimates and locations for growing desirable varieties of fruits used in winemaking and wines, marketing, processing, distribution, advertising, sales production, and product development.

(ii) Hops, barley, beer, and spirits, including, but not limited to, methods of planting, growing, controlling insects and diseases, marketing, processing, distribution, advertising, sales production, and product development.

(b) Projects that do 1 or more of the following:

(i) Provide the wine industry, including growers, wineries, distributors, and retailers, with information relative to proper methods of handling and selling fruits used in winemaking and wines.

(ii) Provide the brewing and distilling industries, including growers, brewers, distillers, distributors, and retailers, with information relative to proper methods of handling and selling hops, barley, beer, spirits, and mixed spirit drinks.

(iii) Provide for market surveys and analyses for purposes of expanding existing markets and creating new and larger markets for Michigan agricultural products such as fruits, hops, and barley, that are used in the production of wine, cider, beer, spirits, and mixed spirit drinks.

(iv) Provide for the promotion of the sale of Michigan agricultural products such as fruits, hops, and barley, that are used in the production of wine, cider, beer, spirits, and mixed spirit drinks for the purpose of maintaining or expanding present markets and creating new and larger domestic and foreign markets.

(v) Develop and administer financial aid programs to growers of fruits used in winemaking to encourage the increased planting in

1 this state of desirable fruit varieties in microclimates determined
2 to provide the best conditions for producing quality wines.

3 (vi) Develop and administer financial aid programs to hops
4 growers to encourage increased planting in this state of desirable
5 hops varieties in microclimates determined to provide the best
6 conditions for producing quality beer.

7 (vii) Develop and administer financial aid programs to barley
8 growers to encourage increased planting in this state of desirable
9 barley varieties in microclimates determined to provide the best
10 conditions for producing quality beer.

11 (viii) Establish educational partnerships to benefit the beer,
12 wine, cider, spirits, and mixed spirit drink industries.

13 (8) The department of agriculture and rural development shall
14 administer the grants awarded under subsection (7).

15 (9) The council shall do all of the following:

16 (a) Apply for and accept grants or contributions from the
17 federal government or any of its agencies, the state, or other
18 public or private agencies to be used for any of the purposes of
19 this section and to do any and all things within its express or
20 implied powers necessary or desirable to secure that financial or
21 other aid or cooperation in the carrying out of any of the purposes
22 of this section.

23 (b) Invite the ~~chief executive officer of the Michigan~~
24 ~~economic development corporation~~ **director of the bureau** or his or
25 her designee to attend at least 1 council meeting annually to
26 inform the council about partnership activities and opportunities
27 related to the marketing and promotion of Michigan agricultural
28 products such as fruits, hops, and barley, that are used in the
29 production of wine, cider, beer, spirits, and mixed spirit drinks.

1 (c) Invite the director of the department of licensing and
2 regulatory affairs to attend at least 1 council meeting annually to
3 inform the council about funding activities affecting the council.

4 (d) Prepare and adopt an annual budget.

5 (10) Based on the information provided to the council under
6 subsection (9)(b) and (c), the council may do either or both of the
7 following:

8 (a) Take actions that will enhance the marketing and promotion
9 of Michigan agricultural products, such as fruits, hops, and
10 barley, that are used in the production of wine, cider, beer,
11 spirits, and mixed spirit drinks.

12 (b) Annually review and adopt strategies for marketing and
13 promotion of Michigan agricultural products, such as fruits, hops,
14 and barley, that are used in the production of wine, cider, beer,
15 spirits, and mixed spirit drinks.

16 (11) The council may promulgate rules pursuant to the
17 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to
18 24.328, for the purposes of implementing and enforcing this
19 section. However, the council shall not promulgate a rule that
20 conflicts with a rule promulgated by the commission under section
21 215.

22 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the
23 council shall not engage in lobbying. This subsection does not
24 prohibit the council or a council member or council employee from
25 providing technical information to the legislature or to the
26 department of agriculture and rural development, regardless of
27 whether the council, council member, or council employee is
28 appearing before an officially convened legislative committee or
29 department of agriculture and rural development hearing panel, if

1 the technical information is related to the council's duties under
2 this section.

3 (13) This section does not prevent the council from
4 establishing a commodity committee under the agriculture
5 commodities marketing act, 1965 PA 232, MCL 290.651 to 290.674.

6 (14) As used in this section:

7 (a) **"Bureau" means the bureau of fair competition and free**
8 **enterprise created in section 7 of the economic development fair**
9 **competition and free enterprise act.**

10 (b) ~~(a)~~ "Cider" means an alcoholic beverage made from the
11 fermentation of juice from primarily apples or pears, or both,
12 which contains not less than 1/2 of 1% and not more than 8.5% of
13 alcohol by volume. Cider may be still or carbonated and may contain
14 other fruits, spices, botanicals, or other flavors.

15 (c) ~~(b)~~ "Council" means the Michigan craft beverage council
16 described in subsection (1).

17 (d) ~~(e)~~ "Large brewer" means a brewer that produces in total
18 at least 60,000 barrels of beer and not more than 1,000,000 barrels
19 of beer per year. In determining the barrel threshold under this
20 subdivision, all brands and labels of a brewer, whether brewed in
21 this state or outside this state, must be combined and all
22 facilities for the production of beer that are owned or controlled
23 by the same person are treated as a single facility.

24 (e) ~~(d)~~ "Lobbying" means that term as defined in section 5 of
25 1978 PA 472, MCL 4.415.

26 (f) ~~(e)~~ "Technical information" means that term as defined in
27 section 5 of 1978 PA 472, MCL 4.415.

28 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
29 unless Senate Bill No. 631 of the 103rd Legislature is enacted into

1 law.