

Ask the Experts

Professional guidance and information is provided by industry experts.

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Q

“What’s new at the Michigan Liquor Control Commission?”

A

There’s Always Something!

The MLCC Has Moved

After more than 40 years in the same location, the Lansing Office of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) has moved. The move, while complicated, was pretty seamless to the consumer of MLCC services. That says a lot about the people who moved a veritable institution, including the staff, the equipment, and the work in progress. In addition to the physical location, all of the phone/fax numbers have changed. However, the e-mail addresses and the mailing address remain the same. The new location and the main phone number are as follows:

New Physical Address

Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan Lansing, MI 48933

Mailing Address (stays the same)
P.O. Box 30005 Lansing, MI 48909
Phone Number 866-813-0011



The MLCC District Offices remain in Southfield, Grand Rapids, and Escanaba.

Conditional Liquor Licenses

On May 22, 2014, legislation allowing conditional liquor licenses (conditional licenses) took effect. The new process only applies in certain situations. From a buyer’s or seller’s point of view, the new process is a breath

of fresh air. Anyone who owns or operates a restaurant in Michigan is undoubtedly familiar with the MLCC’s application and investigation process and knows that the process is intense and time consuming. The concern of prospective restaurateurs and those who are selling their businesses has been the length of time that it takes to achieve licensure. The legislature and the MLCC have made many improvements to the system in an effort to accommodate applicants and to keep the Michigan restaurant business thriving. Now, if an applicant meets the requirements for a conditional license, the MLCC has only 20 business days to consider the completed application and to issue a conditional license.

If you are thinking about buying or selling a restaurant, you should look into this new and

exciting process. Attorneys who practice in the liquor licensing law arena are now experienced in obtaining conditional licenses. Very basically, a restaurateur needs to know the following:

1. A conditional license may be issued to an applicant who has submitted a completed application for a transfer of ownership or for an interest in an existing license that will remain at the same location. The new process does not apply when the business is being relocated, the location of the license is being changed, or to applicants for new licenses.
2. In addition to the completed application, an applicant for a conditional license must submit: an completed MLCC application form for a conditional license, proof of financial responsibility (liquor liability insurance), an executed property document (such as a deed or a lease), and a fee of \$300.

There are factors which will affect the application and the underlying transaction. Those factors should be discussed with experienced liquor law counsel. A conditional license is NOT a permanent license. It is valid only until a permanent license is approved or denied, or for a period of one year from a conditional license’s issuance, whichever comes first.