



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Alyssa Harasim  
MI Restaurant Association  
517.377.3928  
aharasim@mramail.org

### **Michigan legislature takes action to expand the use of Conditional Liquor Licenses**

**LANSING, Michigan** – The Michigan House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 981 on Thursday, clearing the way for final passage of legislation critical to the future growth of the restaurant industry. Introduced by Senator Wayne Schmidt (R- Traverse City), SB 981 seeks to expand the use of Conditional Liquor Licenses in Michigan.

The legislation expands the opportunity for restaurants to secure a temporary liquor license while the Michigan Liquor Control Commission conducts its customary background checks. Restaurants assume a level of risk up front in exchange for the ability to open their doors faster and with more certainty.

“Conditional liquor licenses have been an invaluable tool that has allowed the restaurant industry to expand their operations and provide more jobs,” said Justin Winslow, President & CEO of the Michigan Restaurant Association. “Senate Bill 981 allows for the responsible extension of this opportunity, which will only lead to more opportunities for growth.”

“I would like to thank Sen. Wayne Schmidt for his leadership on this legislation,” Robert O’Meara, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Michigan Restaurant Association. “He understands the hospitality industry and has time and again been willing to fight for the 421,500 Michigan jobs it provides.”

SB 981 passed out of the House of Representatives by a margin of 104-3. The legislation will now head back to the Michigan Senate for a final concurrence vote before heading to Governor Snyder’s desk for his signature.

###

*Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents approximately 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 421,500 people and generating \$15.4 billion in annual sales.*