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Governor Snyder signs Pro-Restaurant Licensing Reform

SB 981 (Public Act 315 of 2016) signed into law to expand the use of Conditional Liquor Licenses

LANSING, Michigan –Today, Governor Rick Snyder provided the restaurant and hospitality community a significant victory by signing SB 981 (Public Act 315 of 2016) into law.

Introduced by Senator Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), PA 315 amends the Michigan Liquor Code to allow more restaurant owners and operators the opportunity to secure a temporary liquor license while the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) 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.

“Since 2014, 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. “This will allow for the responsible extension of this opportunity, which will only lead to more opportunities for growth.”

PA 315 was presented to Governor Snyder on October 27, 2016 and passed out of both chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support.

“The MRA would like to thank Senator Wayne Schmidt for his leadership as well as Governor Rick Snyder, his team, and the Michigan Liquor Commission,” said Robert O’Meara, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Michigan Restaurant Association. “Everyone that was involved understands the importance of the hospitality industry and its growth within Michigan.”

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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.