



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**GRAND PRIX: 10 A.M. LIQUOR SALES**

House Bill 4785 as introduced  
First Analysis (5-15-89)

**RECEIVED**

JUN 06 1989

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Bennet  
Committee: Liquor Control

H.B. 4785 (5-15-89)

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

To accommodate the large crowds that attend the Grand Prix Auto Race in Detroit, the legislature has made it possible for 40 special liquor licenses to be awarded to non-profit organizations, such as fraternal and ethnic groups, that operate concessions at the race. In the past, in response to an early start to race activities, the legislature has allowed these licensees to begin serving alcohol at 10 a.m. rather than at the usual noon opening time. It has been recommended that this be done again for this year's event.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the Liquor Control Act so that organizations issued special liquor licenses for the Detroit Grand Prix could sell alcoholic liquor starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 19, 1989, rather than at the usual noon opening time, notwithstanding any other statutory provision, rule, or local ordinance to the contrary.

MCL 436.17b

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

There is no information at present. (5-12-89)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The bill would permit the sale of alcohol beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday by concessionaires at the Detroit Grand Prix, an event attended by thousands of visitors. The change is necessitated by the early start to race-related activities this year. The bill would apply only to special licensees, only in a special area, and only for one day in 1989. It should be pointed out that if the race were being held on Saturday, the problem would not even arise.

***Response:*** Is it fair to restrict the early opening for sales of alcohol to special licensees in the race area? Permanent licensees, such as hotels and restaurants, in or near the race route will have to observe the usual opening time.

***Against:***

Why is there an automatic legislative response to allow increased sales of alcohol whenever there is a "special need?" Some people are convinced that relaxing the liquor law means greater alcohol consumption and that greater alcohol consumption means more alcohol-related problems for society.

***POSITIONS:***

The Liquor Control Commission does not oppose the bill. (5-12-89)

The Michigan Interfaith Council on Alcohol Problems (MICAP) is opposed to the bill. (5-9-89)