Michigan is one of 17 “control states” as related to the alcohol beverage industry. “Control State” means that state government is responsible for the sale and distribution of certain alcohol beverages as opposed to a license state where wholesale and retail sales of distilled spirits are mandated by private sellers.

Control states receive the markup revenues that would have otherwise been received by private sellers. They can use this revenue for state expenditures. Control states account for approximately one-third of the U. S. population.

Alabama	New Hampshire	Virginia
Idaho	North Carolina	West Virginia
Iowa	Ohio	Wyoming
Maine	Oregon	Montgomery Co. MD
Michigan	Pennsylvania	
Mississippi	Utah	
Montana	Vermont	

Michigan is the wholesaler of liquor in the state by law. It uses private Authorized Distribution Agents to carry out liquor distribution functions on its behalf.

The MLCC is administered by five commissioners, appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Michigan Senate to four-year, rotating terms. The Chair of the Commission is selected by the Governor. Of the five members, no more than three can be of the same political party.

Two of the Commissioners (one Democrat and one Republican) serve as Hearing Commissioners and conduct hearings on violations of the Liquor Control Code and Administrative Rules of the Commission.

The remaining three Commissioners are designated as the Administrative Commissioners and are responsible for decisions and interpretation of the Liquor Control Code and Administrative Rules in the areas of licensing, enforcement, purchasing, merchandising and distribution. They also serve as an appeal board for decisions of the Hearing Commissioners and hear licensing appeals.