



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 1, 2010

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

LEGISLATURE COMPLETES WORK ON “RECREATION PASSPORT FEE” LEGISLATION

The House and Senate have completed work on a package of bills to create a recreation passport fee for entry into state parks and boating access sites. The bills in the package are SBs 389 and 1057, introduced by Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) and Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp.), respectively; and HBs 4677 and 5752, introduced by Rep. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) and Rep. Arlan Meekhof (R-Olive Twp.). Starting effective Oct. 1, 2010, the bills establish an additional optional fee of \$5 for a motorcycle and \$10 for all other resident (Michigan) motor vehicles to be added to a motor vehicle license fee. Out-of-state vehicles would still need to get either the daily or annual park entrance sticker. The package of bills also prohibits the operator of a resident motor vehicle from entering a state park or state public boating access site without paying the recreation passport fee and establishes fines for doing so. The bill package further provides for the distribution of revenue from the recreation passport fee. All of the bills were signed yesterday by the governor and now become PAs 35, 33, 34 and 32 of 2010, respectively.

LEGISLATURE NEARS COMPLETION OF MILITARY & OVERSEAS AV VOTER PACKAGE

The Senate and House are putting the final touches on a package of bills to make it easier for military and overseas voters to participate in elections by allowing clerks to send them electronic voter registration applications and absentee voter (AV) ballot applications and ballots. Under HB 5279, introduced by Rep. Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield), the voter would still need to return the AV ballot by U.S. mail to the appropriate clerk. Corresponding bills, HB 5530, introduced by Rep. Jennifer Haase (D-Richmond), and SB 1094, introduced by Sen. Cameron Brown (R-Fawn River Twp.), would require AV ballots be delivered to the county clerk at least 47 days (and to local clerks at least 45 days) before any election. The final bill in the package, SB 1095, introduced by Sen. Michelle McManus (R-Leland Twp.), would standardize the filing deadline in all local elections to the twelfth Tuesday before the election. The two Senate bills were signed yesterday by the governor (PAs 43 and 44 of 2010) and the two House bills only await House concurrence of Senate action before being sent to the governor. The bills all have immediate effect upon being signed.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OPEN BURNING SURVEY

New rules that are making their way through the administrative rules process would delete the current exemption for the open burning of household trash (i.e. burning trash in burn barrels) by individuals on their own property. While public hearings will be conducted May 4 in Marquette, May 6 in Lansing and May 12 in Gaylord (more details later) on the proposed rule changes, MTA and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) would like to obtain information through an online survey as to what township officials think of trash burning and current methods of trash management. The survey was developed by state officials in coordination with MTA and other stakeholders and is available at www.surveymonkey.com/dnreopenburngov. MTA would like to encourage township officials to participate in the survey, which should take less than 10 minutes and is returned to the state with responses shared with MTA legislative staff. This issue will also be a topic for the MTA On The Road district meetings scheduled for the northern half of the state in May.

MTA WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT SOON TO BE ELECTRONIC ONLY

This report (*MTA Weekly Legislative Report*) that comes to you weekly from the MTA Legislative Department will become an electronic-only document beginning on July 2 to save costs. Most subscribers currently receive the report via e-mail; however, there is still a small number who receive the document via fax. MTA is asking those fax subscribers to provide us with an e-mail address to replace their current fax number. There are a variety of ways to receive a free e-mail account. Please contact Erma at erma@michigantownships.org or at (517) 321-6467 for more about the change.

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