



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

January 2, 2009

MTA Phone: 517-321-6467

MTA FAX: 517-321-8908

Please route to all interested parties in your township.

COMPROMISE TRUCK ROUTE LEGISLATION APPROVED

The Michigan Senate approved HB 4839, including a truck route amendment relevant to townships during its final session day on Dec.18. The amendment approved, however, was modified significantly from earlier versions and gained a neutral stance from MTA as the scope of the amendment was narrowed. The House concurred in the changes to HB 4839 and the bill is on its way to the governor's desk for approval.

HB 4839 now sets up a complaint process on border county primary roads only between two townships (technically roads that both townships could have a related truck route ordinance). The township that has a concern with a truck route in the neighboring township that they believe is diverting truck traffic onto the border county primary road can submit a written complaint to the township with the truck route ordinance and to the county road commission. The road commission then is required to investigate the complaint and becomes the mediator to try and resolve the issue. If 60 days pass (from the time of the complaint) and there is no resolution, the road commission can either vote to uphold the truck route or void the portion of the truck route that is impacting the border road. The following changes to the amendment helped MTA arrive at a neutral position: narrowed to border roads; complaints are to be made in writing; sets up an investigative process; and action by the county road commission to either uphold or void only the portion of the ordinance in question. Previous versions of the amendment would have allowed a neighboring township to make a complaint and the law would have eventually voided the entire truck route ordinance without any action by anyone.

LEGISLATION TO LURE BUSINESS ACROSS THE BORDER

The Legislature has passed a bill that will allow certain communities to exempt all personal property taxes for new businesses, in an attempt to lure companies from other states and Canada. Under SB 1281, sponsored by Sen. Cameron Brown (R-Fawn River Twp.), the exemptions can take place in counties that border other states or Wayne, St. Clair or Chippewa Counties, which border Canada. The exemption may only be granted to certain new projects. It must be demonstrated that the business is adding jobs for the state, not just moving them within the state. Any city, village or township in the border counties may offer the exemption so long as four of the following six services are available: water, sewer, police, fire, trash or recycling. The legislation does not specify to what extent the service must be available or who must provide the service, public or otherwise. Certain distressed communities already have the ability to exempt personal property taxes in specific situations. This personal property tax exemption may not be granted after Dec. 31, 2012.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE SESSION OFFICIALLY ENDS; BUSY LAME DUCK

The 94th Michigan Legislature officially adjourned (sine die) in quiet fashion on Tuesday, Dec. 30. The end of the two-year session means that all bills that were not approved by both houses died. While the final day of session was calm, there was a significant amount of legislation addressed during the lame duck session. In fact, there were 237 bills that passed after the November election. The 95th Legislature convenes on Jan. 14. A Revenue Estimating Conference will be held on Jan. 9.

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT EARLY; MTA WEB-SITE GETTING NEW YEAR'S OVERHAUL

You are receiving this MTA *Weekly Legislative Report* two days early due to the New Year's holiday taking place on Thursday. Further, the MTA is making a significant upgrade to our Web site to provide a "new look." However, due to our Web site maintenance, our site will be down at times during a brief transition period. We will be posting this week's *Report* to our Web site on Monday, Jan. 5 when the transition between the "old" and the "new" has been completed. Thank you for your patience.

END