



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

January 8, 2010

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

### **NEW LAW ALLOWS FOR INSPECTIONS OF MOBILE HOME RENTALS**

Legislation has been signed into law this week that will give full authority to local units of government to inspect mobile homes that are being rented out in licensed mobile home parks. Public Act 215 was introduced by Rep. Bob Constan (D-Dearborn Heights). The legislation does contain certain limits. In order to inspect mobile homes, the local government must have an ordinance in place—an ordinance to inspect all forms of rental housing within the community. The ordinance may describe a procedure to register the rental units with the township. The law does limit the inspections to no more than once every three years, unless the inspection is based on a formal complaint. The standards for inspection may not exceed basic building code standards. The new law has immediate effect.

### **SENATE INTRODUCES BILLS ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS**

Senate Republicans introduced two bills just before Christmas that would impact the provision of health care benefits for public employers. SB 1046, offered by Sen. Mark Jansen (R-Gaines Chtr. Twp.), would prohibit a public employer from paying for more than 80 percent of the cost of a health insurance plan offered to its employees. The legislation further states that the subsidy may be increased to 85 percent if the health care plan includes a healthy living component and a health savings account. The second piece of legislation was introduced by Sen. Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond Twp.). SB 1047 would require the state to allow local governments to purchase into the health care plans offered to state employees. Current state civil service rules already allow local governments to purchase their health care through the state contract, but with a very major limitation. Under civil service rules, the local government can purchase the health care through the state employee plan, but if actual costs of health care services exceed the cost of the premium, the local government would be billed for the difference. It is no surprise that no local government has availed themselves of this offer, because it offers all of the negatives associated with a self-funded plan with none of the benefits. The proposed legislation does not seem to create the same fatal flaw within the system.

### **GUBERNATORIAL RACE IS WIDE OPEN WITH CHERRY'S DEPARTURE**

Lieutenant Gov. John Cherry pulled the plug on his attempt to become the next governor for the state of Michigan this week. The main reason he cited was his inability to raise funds for his campaign. The Lt. Governor was considered the favorite in the Democratic Party for the position. As a result of the announcement, the list of people seeking the position on the democratic ticket is expanding daily. State Sen. Alma Wheeler-Smith from the Ann Arbor area and former state Rep. John Freeman from southeast Oakland County were already looking at running for the position. Genesee County Treasurer Dan Kildee; state Sen. Hanson Clarke of Detroit; George Perles, former MSU football coach and current MSU trustee; Virg Bernero, former legislator and current Lansing mayor; and House Speaker Andy Dillon (Redford Chtr. Twp.) look to be entering the race, with the last two being considered very strong candidates. Some of the more interesting speculation includes former Detroit Piston great Joe Dumars; former governor James Blanchard and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Others who are being talked about are Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano; former mayor of Detroit Dennis Archer; former Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan; former congressman from Macomb County David Bonier; Denise Ilitch, daughter of the owner of the Detroit Red Wings and Tigers; and Bart Stupak, congressman from northern Michigan.

### **STATE BUDGET PROCESS BEGINS ON MONDAY**

The first step in establishing the FY '10-'11 budget takes place on Monday. The Revenue Consensus Conference will convene at 9 a.m. At that time, the state treasurer will sit down with the heads of the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies to create revenue estimates for the coming year and make adjustments to the current year's assumptions. These figures are used to construct the new budget.

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