



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 23, 2010

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

SENATE PASSES BILL PACKAGE CHANGING SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION DATES

On Tuesday, the full Senate passed a package of bills (SBs 751-756) that would alter when school district elections are held. The bi-partisan package, introduced by Sens. Cameron Brown, Mickey Switalski and Roger Kahn, would require school district elections to move from May to either the November odd-year election, the August even-year election or the November even-year election if certain conditions apply. Conditions in the package would not allow for an August even-year election for school districts that are wholly and partly contained in a county greater than a population of 750,000. Further, school elections could only move to the November odd-year election date if a city or a community college already holds a November odd-year election and that city (or cities) or community college contain more than 50% of the registered electors eligible to vote in a school district election. In addition, the "floater" election date for millage elections that was previously established under election consolidation would be eliminated under the package. The package now moves to the House for consideration. The new requirements would apply after March 31, 2011, if enacted into law.

GOVERNOR SIGNS FINAL PIECES OF MILITARY & OVERSEAS AV VOTER PACKAGE

Governor Jennifer Granholm signed into law the final two bills of the bill package to make it easier for military and overseas voters to participate in elections. HB 5279, (now PA 50 of 2010), introduced by Rep. Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield), will allow clerks to send military and overseas voters electronic voter registration applications and absentee voter (AV) ballot applications and ballots. Voted AV ballots would still need to be returned by U.S. mail to the appropriate clerk. The governor also signed into law HB 5530, (now PA 51 of 2010), introduced by Rep. Jennifer Haase (D-Richmond), which will require AV ballots be delivered to the county clerk at least 47 days before any election or primary election. Other bills in the package, previously signed into law, include SBs 1094 (PA 43) and 1095 (PA 44), introduced by Sens. Cameron Brown (R-Fawn River Twp.) and Michelle McManus (Leland Twp.), respectively. The Senate bills require county clerks to deliver AV ballots to local clerks at least 45 days before any election and standardize the filing deadline in all local elections to the twelfth Tuesday before an election.

DNRE ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMENT PERIOD FOR OPENING BURNING BAN

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is proposing amendments to the open burning provisions of the air pollution and solid waste management rules. In essence, the rule changes would eliminate the current exemption for the burning of household trash. Three public hearings have been scheduled to take comments on the proposed rules from interested individuals, including township officials. A one-hour public information session will immediately precede each hearing. The public hearings are: May 4 at 7 p.m., Northern Michigan University, Marquette Room, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette; May 6 at 2 p.m., G. Mennen Williams Building, Auditorium, 525 West Ottawa Street, Lansing and May 12 at 7 p.m., M-TEC at Kirtland-Gaylord, 60 Livingston Boulevard, Gaylord. Written comments can be sent by e-mail to DNRE-AQD-RuleRevisionPublicComments@michigan.gov or by mail to DNRE, Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing MI 48909-7760. Written comments must be received by June 4, 2010. Information about the open burning rule amendments can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3310_4148_55793-218708--,00.html.

MTA CAPITOL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

MTA would like to express our thanks to all the township officials and legislators who participated in our *2010 MTA Capitol Conference* at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing. More than 160 township officials attended the conference and over 40 legislators attended the morning breakfast held with attendees.

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