



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 30, 2010

MTA Phone: 517-321-6467 MTA Fax: 517-321-8908

MTA Web site: [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org)

Please route to all interested parties in your township.

### **STATE TAX COMMISSION SETS PROCEDURES**

The State Tax Commission (STC) met this week and issued directives on several issues related to assessing. The most important directive was the process that will allow Level 1 assessors to continue to assess after Nov. 1, 2012. Level 1 assessors will be required to pass an exam, which will be offered starting next week. A study guide will be posted on the STC Web site beginning May 1. The test is free as is the study guide. The STC also provided details on the issue of newly elected or appointed supervisors being allowed to assess property. Under the STC plan, a newly elected supervisor in a township with less than \$125 million in state equalized value may assume assessing duties so long as they agree to enroll in the next assessing class. They may continue to assess so long as they remain in the class and make appropriate progress. The tax commission also established a way for townships with wind turbines to avoid the requirement for a higher certified assessor by allowing the community to contract out the assessing of the wind turbines.

### **THE IMPACT OF MICHIGAN'S NEW SMOKING LAW ON TOWNSHIPS**

Michigan's new smoking law takes effect on May 1, 2010. While provisions of the new law (P.A. 188 of 2009) dealing with bars and restaurants have received significant attention in the media, there are sections of the law that have received little attention. For example, the [Smoking in Public Places Act](#), MCL 333.12601, *et seq.*, prohibits smoking indoors at all township facilities. The act includes any enclosed indoor area owned or operated by a state or local governmental agency and used by the general public or serving as a meeting place for a public body, including an office. It also includes any public or private place of employment. The act no longer provides an option for an indoor designated smoking area, and makes no exception for private functions at a township facility. The township shall clearly and conspicuously post "no smoking" signs or the international, "no smoking" symbol at the entrances to and in every township building. Township staff shall inform individuals smoking in violation of this act that they are in violation of state law and subject to penalties.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS START NEXT WEEK ON OPENING BURNING BAN**

The first public hearing on the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) proposal to amend the open burning provisions of the air pollution and solid waste management rules is scheduled for Tuesday in Marquette. The complete list of public hearings to take comments on the proposed rules are as follows: 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. A one-hour public information session immediately precedes each public hearing. In addition to the public hearings, written comments can be sent electronically to [DNRE-AQD-RuleRevisionPublicComments@michigan.gov](mailto:DNRE-AQD-RuleRevisionPublicComments@michigan.gov) or by mail to DNRE, Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing MI 48909-7760 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](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3310_4148_55793-218708--,00.html).

### **HOUGHTON LAKE MTA REGIONAL MEETING SOLD OUT, OTHER SITES FILLING FAST!**

If you have not yet registered for an MTA *On The Road* Regional Meeting, MTA encourages you to do so soon since some sites are sold out or nearing capacity. These one-day events, offered at several sites throughout Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula (MTA Districts 1-13), are a great opportunity to connect with fellow township officials and hear the latest news affecting your township—including legislative issues. For details, go to the MTA Web site under PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT or <http://www.michigantownships.org/downloads/webbrochure.pdf> to register online. Last day for early bird rates is Tuesday, May 4!

\*\*\*END\*\*\*