



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 14, 2010

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

### **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CUTS STATUTORY REVENUE SHARING BY 4%**

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved numerous budget bills on Wednesday, including the general government budget (HB 5880) that contains funding for revenue sharing for next fiscal year (beginning Oct. 1, 2010). The committee approved a cut of more than \$40 million (or 4%) to combined statutory and constitutional revenue sharing amounts approved by the House. Senate Democrats made attempts to restore the revenue sharing cuts but the efforts were rejected by Republicans on a party-line vote. The committee also rejected a new tax on car rentals from the Detroit Metro Airport proposed to fund the Pure Michigan advertising campaign. The general government budget now moves to the Senate floor where most budgets have already gained approval. The two budgets that remain before the appropriations committee are the departments of Human Services and the State Police.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGAL NOTICES ISSUE HEARD IN HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

A package of bills designed to provide options to local governments when posting legal notices was the topic of lengthy discussion and testimony before the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. The package, strongly supported by MTA, contains HBs 5845, 5847-48, 5853, 5916 and 5917, which are sponsored by the following representatives, respectfully; Joe Haveman, Sharon Tyler, Doug Geiss, Richard Hammel and Pete Lund (sponsoring the last two). The package allows townships, counties, cities and villages to use alternatives to expensive newspaper ads. Substitute versions of the bills adopted in committee would still require local governments to post legal notices in the clerk's office and require local governments to use one other method, including the local government's website, a commercial radio station, television station, public education and government (PEG) channel or a newspaper. Clerks would be required to retain a copy of a notarized legal notice in perpetuity. Clerks would also be required to send copies of the legal notices to residents who request them, through mail or electronic mail, by choice of the resident. MTA testified before the committee along with six township officials from across the state. MTA is working in conjunction with MML and MAC to move the package. The MI Press Assn. and the Detroit Legal News had their attorneys testify against the cost savings package. Committee Chairman Mark Meadows is planning to take further testimony before any voting.

### **HOUSE APPROVES CONSUMER-GRADE FIREWORKS**

The Michigan House on Wednesday approved HBs 5999 and 6000, bills that allow for the sale of "consumer-grade" fireworks in Michigan for the first time. Ironically, the bills are also needed to maintain a revenue stream for firefighter training funding. The bills, sponsored by Reps. Harold Haugh (D-Roseville) and Andrew Kandrevas (D-Southgate) would allow for the sale and use of fireworks that produce a visible (aerial) effect, but are lower in strength and effect than class B fireworks typically used in municipal fireworks displays. Substitute versions of the bills approved on the House floor continue to allow local governments to regulate fireworks sales through ordinances and to grant permits for the purpose of public displays. Any permit fees, however, must be transmitted to the state. The bills only allow for the sale of the higher-grade fireworks in stores no smaller than 1,000 square feet. A \$5,000 license fee with a renewal fee of \$2,500 per year would be required. The fees are expected to raise \$5 million, with about half designated for the state Bureau of Fires Services. Only charity organizations would be allowed to sell the lower-grade fireworks out of tents.

### **ANNEXATION REFORM BILL MOVES SWIFTLY THROUGH HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Legislation reforming annexations in charter townships with a population of 20,000 or more was approved by the House Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee on Tuesday. HBs 6071 and 6072, sponsored by Reps. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) and Mark Meadows (D-East Lansing), protect these townships by exempting them from both annexations and detachments (i.e., freezing their boundaries). The protected townships would also have to meet the service delivery items in the charter township act.

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