



## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

October 15, 2010

Phone: 517-321-6467

Website: [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org)

Please route to all interested parties in your township.

### **GOVERNOR SMASHES SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES**

Governor Granholm vetoed legislation on Tuesday that would have made numerous changes to the state liquor license laws, including the expansion of morning liquor sales on Sundays. HB 6007, sponsored by Rep. Hugh Crawford (R-Novi), would have allowed for the sale of alcohol between 7 a.m. and noon on Sundays if liquor license holders would have paid the state an additional \$160 annually. The bill would have also expanded sales into specific community colleges, Western Michigan University, certain senior-living communities, and allow for restaurants to provide alcohol at catered events. It would have created special licenses for wine tasting; wine auctions and allow vineyards the ability to market their products independently. The bill was vetoed by the governor, however, over concerns that allowing food establishments to sell liquor at off-premises locations would violate federal case law, where in-state and out-of-state retailers must compete equally. Further, the governor was concerned over allowing up to nine ounces for wine samples and said the bill created a "special act" for some colleges that could be challenged on constitutional grounds. The bill was included in the 2011 state budget package and expected to generate about \$9.1 million in new state revenue. It is unclear if the Legislature will attempt to re-run the legislation in the lame-duck session (before the end of the year).

### **STATE REVENUE FIGURES IMPROVE IN SEPTEMBER**

Monthly figures released by the Senate Fiscal Agency (SFA) reveal that state revenues in the month of September had the strongest monthly gain in two years. State revenues increased by 5.3 percent when compared to revenue collected by the state in September of 2009. The monthly collections, which exceeded the May Revenue Estimating Conference forecast by \$175.5 million, puts the 2010 Fiscal Year General Fund revenues \$235.4 million above forecast and the School Aid Fund revenues \$115 million ahead of predictions. The SFA report credited a 7.7 percent increase in income tax collections when compared to September 2009 for most of the revenue growth while use tax collections also jumped by 20.3 percent. However, when compared to September 2009, sales tax revenue fell by 2 percent and other taxes declined as well. SFA Director Gary Olson said he expects the surplus to shrink when the budget is officially closed as MI Business Tax refunds are unknown.

### **MEDICAL MARIHUANA ACT WHITE PAPER ATTEMPTS TO CLEAR THE AIR**

A white paper designed to offer insights and analysis into Michigan's confusing Medical Marihuana Act has been released for use by township officials. The paper, co-commissioned by the MTA, was authored by Cooley Law School professor and former municipal attorney Gerry Fisher. The paper is designed as a resource to offer insights into how local governments and municipal attorneys may choose to respond to the act. It addresses potential regulatory options at the local level, including one possible ordinance approach. Visit MTA's Medical Marihuana web page for a copy of the report and more information, [MTA's Medical Marihuana web page](#).

### **LATEST EDITION OF THE MICHIGAN MANUAL IS NOW AVAILABLE**

The Michigan Legislative Council and the Legislative Service Bureau are pleased to announce the publication of the 2009-2010 *Michigan Manual*. This state government yearbook, which was first produced in 1836, provides a wealth of information on the operations of each of the three branches of Michigan government. It presents a wide range of materials, encompassing historical information, biographies of elected officials, profiles of the state universities, census data, and proposed constitutional amendments. Sometimes referred to as the "Red Book," the *Michigan Manual* includes brief profiles of state agencies and many of the processes through which the people of this state govern themselves. This is a unique tool that provides access to information on virtually all aspects of state government, and it remains a valuable resource for students of Michigan. Ordering information can be found at: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/publications/publicationOrderForm.pdf>

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