



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

December 28, 2010

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Please route to all interested parties in your township.

GOVERNOR VETOES PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION

Governor Granholm vetoed SB 77 last week. The legislation was approved by the Legislature to spur the sales of bank foreclosed property. MTA submitted a letter to the governor asking that the legislation be vetoed. Many issues associated with the legislation were identified as problematic. The legislation would have allowed financial institutions to keep the property in its principal residence statutes, but instead require the financial institution to pay an additional fee instead of the 18-mill tax. The actions of local government officials made a difference on this legislation.

The governor's veto message was as follows: "Leaders from local governments throughout Michigan have expressed opposition to the enactment of Enrolled Senate Bill 77. They assert that while the legislation may be well intended, the mechanism for implementation is flawed, administrative costs would be imposed on local governments without funding, and needed revenue would be diverted from local communities. Because I agree, Enrolled Senate Bill 77 is vetoed and returned without signature as provided under Section 33 of Article IV of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Respectfully, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor." MTA greatly appreciates this action by the governor.

U.S. CENSUS: MICHIGAN IS THE BIGGEST LOSER

The U.S. Census Bureau announced the official census numbers for each state and Michigan was the only state in the nation to see an actual decline in their population over the past ten years. As a result of the decline, Michigan will lose one congressional seat in the next election. It should be noted that the Census Bureau only released the state population totals. The data bases that will include township populations, as well as other local government populations, are not expected to be released until next April.

SOME OF THE NEW PUBLIC ACTS IMPACTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

[PA 299](#) (HB 5368) Restricts use of phosphorous in lawn fertilizers.

[PA 305](#) (HB 5211) Requires consideration of public transportation in site plan review.

[PA 306](#) (HB 5212) Enhances consideration of public transportation in planning process.

[PA 311](#) (HB 4119) Modifies procedures for deferral of payment of property taxes by county.

[PA 330](#) (HB 5926) Modifies timeline to file suit in zoning case.

[PA 332](#) (SB 395) Requires assessment notices to be mailed 14 days prior to Board of Review.

[PA 334](#) (SB 1126) Sets timeline for school board election coordinating committee meetings.

[PA 339](#) (SB 715) Modifies public hearing process for drain assessments.

[PA 340](#) (SB 283) Modifies assessment procedures for "Habitat for Humanity" type housing.

[PA 342](#) (SB 879) Creates restrictions on adult entertainment building signage.

[PA 358](#) (SB 1464) Adds townships to the list of governing bodies that have the ability to include other plants in addition to those outlined in state statute as noxious weeds.

REPORT INDICATES BUDGET WOES CONTINUE TO PLAGUE STATE

Yesterday, the Senate Fiscal Agency (SFA) released a report projecting a \$1.85 billion general fund hole for the 2011-12 fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1, 2011. The gap reflects the difference between available general fund revenue and current spending. However, not all the news is bad. The SFA report indicates a \$192 million projected surplus in the School Aid Fund beyond what is needed to continue current spending. In addition, the report projects a positive general fund balance of \$201 million for the current year and a \$430 million balance in the School Aid Fund.

MTA HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The MTA offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 in observance of the New Year holiday.

END