



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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House Legislation Wrongfully Attacks Townships

Lansing, MI – Michigan Townships Association Legislative Liaison David Bertram issued the following statement in response to the introduction of House Bill 4780, and companion bills:

“The House Democratic plan introduced Thursday is an absolute direct attack on township government. MTA is outraged and disappointed by the introduction of this legislation. Furthermore, the manner in which this was introduced—without any dialogue or warning—is insulting.

“HB 4780 is radical legislation that strips more than 90 percent of the state’s townships of tax collections, elections and assessing.

“Townships are being singled out and are being wrongfully used as a scapegoat for a change in structure of local government. Yet township government is proven to be the most efficient and effective form of local government. There is no evidence of a cost savings by moving tax collections, elections and assessment to the counties; in fact, it will likely increase costs.

“More than 50 percent of the state’s population lives in townships; yet townships spend one-eighth the amount of cities on providing services to residents. Does the Legislature have no understanding of the complications and impact this rash decision could have on the everyday lives of families?

“This package shows a lack of respect and appreciation for dedicated public servants who serve not for a paycheck or the power, rather they serve because they care about the community they call home.”

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