



For Immediate Release
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**Michigan Townships Association Supports Meeting
Notification Legislation to Cut Costs**
*Township governments continue to seize opportunities to operate more
efficiently*

Lansing, Mich. — As Michigan’s townships continue to look for ways to reduce costs, proposed legislation would provide an additional cost cutting tool that can be used by local governments to notify citizens of meetings. The legislation, which is expected to be introduced Thursday, would provide townships, cities, villages, counties and schools with new options that are available to publicize meetings and other activities.

Under the legislation, local governments and schools could publicize meeting notices on websites and Public Education Government Channels (PEG). Township related bills are HB 5845, sponsored by Rep. Joe Haveman, R-Holland, which amends the Charter Township Act and HB 5847, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Tyler, R-Niles, which amends the General Law Township Act.

The Michigan Townships Association supports the legislation as a new cost-conscious option to give taxpayers saving while providing information about township activities.

“Our township is in a circumstance that we have to publicize our meeting notices in a large daily newspaper,” said Michigan Townships Association (MTA) President and Windsor Charter Township Clerk Linda Towsley. “This continues to be very expensive for our township at a time when revenue sharing and other local government funding has been cut. If lawmakers are expecting local governments to survive, they need to help provide tools for reducing our costs.”

“The legislation allows townships to use websites and public education governmental channels as a means to communicate with citizens in a more efficient manner, which satisfies the requirements of the law,” said Rep. Haveman.

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Most efficient form of government

Michigan's 1,240 townships, which comprise more than 96 percent of Michigan's land area and over half of the state's population, already perform very efficiently compared to local governments in other states.

One of the advantages of operating with a smaller government is the ability to provide services more efficiently with less staff. Part time staff manages the majority of Michigan townships. In addition, Michigan townships continue to look for cooperative arrangements to provide more efficient services.

Earlier this month, the MTA released a study advocating reform efforts at the local government level focused on regional economic development strategies that leverage regional assets and utilize placemaking tactics to:

- Attract knowledge-based industries
- Develop regional infrastructure necessary to attract new economy jobs
- Promote entrepreneurship and diversity
- Develop value-added agriculture using 21st-century technologies

To review the complete *White Papers: Reforming Michigan's Local Government*, please visit the MTA website at <http://www.michigantownships.org>.