

Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | June 17, 2016

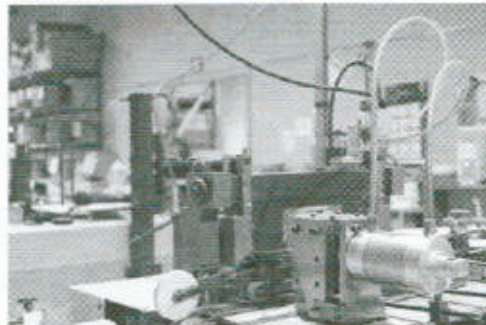
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

New PPT tax implementation form

The Michigan Department of Treasury has developed [Form 5548](#) to help municipalities calculate their percentage of general operating millage used to fund the cost of essential services in 2012. The form is part of the implementation process for personal property tax



reimbursement for essential services, such as police, fire and ambulance. MTA recently assisted the Department in forwarding the new form and information to township treasurers. Completed forms should be sent to Treasury by July 15 via email at TreasORTAPPT@michigan.gov, by fax at (517) 335-3298, or by mail to Michigan Department of Treasury, Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, PO Box 30722, Lansing, MI 48909. If you have questions, email TreasORTAPPT@michigan.gov or call (517) 373-2697.

TIF changes proposed

A newly introduced bill would make several changes to tax increment finance (TIF) authorities in Michigan on transparency, reporting and penalty requirements. [SB 1026](#), sponsored by Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth), would require TIF authorities to post certain information online and also hold at least two informational meetings each year, in addition to reporting requirements to the State Tax Commission (STC). If the STC finds that a local unit isn't in compliance, the local unit's TIF authority would face certain penalties. Additionally, the bill proposes to combine six of the current TIF acts into one state statute and eliminate three authorities that the state does not believe are utilized. The six that would be combined include the Downtown Development Authority, the Tax Increment Finance Authority, the Local Development Financing Act, the Nonprofit Street Railway, the Corridor Improvement Authority and the Water Resource Improvement TIF Authority. The three that would be eliminated include the Historic Neighborhood TIF Authority, the

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Neighborhood Improvement Authority, and the Private Investment Infrastructure Funding Act. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Act would not be impacted. MTA has worked extensively with a number of ongoing TIF workgroups (House, Senate and the administration) and held numerous discussions with lawmakers. ***If your township has a TIF, please contact legislation@michigantownships.org to learn more about the impact the reform measures being proposed may have.*** Action is anticipated on SB 1026 as well as other legislation expected to be introduced when the Legislature resumes session in September.

[* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

[* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

[* Ted Hartleb Agency](#)

[* Wightman & Associates, Inc.](#)



Reporting requirement eliminated on farmland development



A bill that recently received final passage would eliminate a reporting requirement for townships and change requirements for farmers to apply for a farmland development rights agreement. **HB 5189**, sponsored by Rep. Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway Twp.), would amend several sections

of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. One change would no longer require townships or counties to notify the governing body of a city or village when land within three miles of a city or one mile of a village applies for a farmland development rights agreement. The bill would also eliminate the \$25 fee that's currently charged by the state land use agency to collect and process each change of ownership or subdivision.

Infrastructure fund to be created

A new "Michigan Infrastructure Fund" will be created under newly-enrolled **SB 883**. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell Ctr. Twp.), does not appropriate any money to the fund but would allow money or other assets from any source to be deposited into it. Money in the fund could only be spent as provided in an appropriation act to offset future infrastructure expenses.

Bill would change representation on Construction Code Commission

A certified fire protection specialist could be appointed to the state Construction Code Commission under **HB 5102**, which was recently passed by the House. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Gary Glenn (R-Larkin Twp.), would still require the state fire marshal or an employee of the Bureau of Fire Services to serve on the commission. However, the employee must be certified as a fire protection specialist by the National Fire Protection Association and designated by the fire marshal. The Senate could consider the bill when it returns in September.



MTF money to go to two new funds

Michigan Transportation Fund money would be set aside in two new funds under [SB 105](#), which recently received final passage. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Mike Green (R-Fremont Twp.), would create a \$2 million earmark for a new Local Agency Wetland Mitigation Bank Fund and \$5 million for a new Movable Bridge Fund. Both earmarks would come out of the current distribution to the State Trunkline Fund, county road commissions, cities and villages. The Senate Fiscal Agency does not yet have an estimate on how the \$5 million earmark will be distributed among the state and local road agencies that own movable bridges.

State emergency fund could increase



Michigan's emergency fund could potentially more than double under a bill recently enrolled. [SB 914](#), sponsored by Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek), would increase the statutory cap to \$10 million from the current \$4.5 million maximum on funds that can be appropriated to the state's Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund. The fund is

used to pay for state and local costs in state or federal disasters. The bill now goes to Gov. Rick Snyder for signature.

MI Green Community Challenge Deadline is June 30

The deadline for entering your township in the 2016 MI Green Community (MGC) Challenge is June 30—submissions after that date will count toward the 2017 Challenge. The MGC Challenge is a free annual program that serves as a guide to help communities measure their progress towards sustainability and is open to all local governments in Michigan. Townships can participate by opening an online account and filling out the online form that contains a checklist for indicating which projects and initiatives are underway in your township and Challenge reporting metrics. Access to participation and additional information can be obtained [online](#). The MGC Challenge is a partnership between the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Association of Counties. In 2016, the Challenge was revised and relaunched with support from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Federal update for week of June 13

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships' [e-newsletter](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.

Additional news you can use

MTA's July workshop digs into cemetery management

Gain a better understanding of the rules, regulations and other important aspects of cemetery management and administration during MTA's half-day workshop, [Cemeteries: Challenges & Solutions](#), coming to three locations this July. Explore legal obligations and ordinances, fees and budgeting, green burials, as well as the role of the board, caretakers and committees. Early-bird rates end June 28. Download the brochure [here](#) or register [online](#) now.

Habitat grants available

Townships have until July 20 to apply for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2016 Wildlife Habitat Grants. About \$1 million is available for grants starting at \$15,000 for projects that enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game-species habitat. Special consideration will be given to projects that feature habitat enhancement for game species. More information is available [online](#).