

Dec. 12, 2025

Measure would expand disabled veterans' exemption

MTA [opposed](#) legislation discussed this week in the House Finance Committee that would increase revenue losses to local units of government. [House Bill 4682](#), sponsored by Rep. Jason Woolford (R-Marion Twp.), would reduce property tax revenue by approximately \$15-\$25 million annually based on Michigan's share of surviving spouses qualifying for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The bill expands the exemption to include surviving spouses of a veteran or a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, including reserve components, to claim the exemption if the surviving spouse is entitled to DIC under federal law because the veteran's or service member's death occurred as the result of a service connected disability. MTA recognizes the importance of ensuring members of our armed forces and their spouses receive the benefits they deserve. However, the Legislature needs to address the significant budgetary implications the legislation creates for local governments.



Bills extend Commercial Rehabilitation and Redevelopment sunsets

Legislation to amend statutes to allow an extension of commercial facilities and rehabilitation exemptions were considered in both the Senate and House this week and supported by MTA. Both the Commercial Redevelopment and Commercial Rehabilitation Acts have been utilized by local governments to address blighted properties, and the current statutes sunset Dec. 31, 2025. [Senate Bill 721](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Bloomfield Twp.), and [SB 722](#), sponsored by Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Chtr. Twp.), were passed by the Senate this week and would extend the sunsets to Dec. 31, 2035. The bills would also extend the maximum length of time for a commercial rehabilitation certificate to align the program with similar tools like the Obsolete Property Act. Two similar bills, [House Bill 5305](#), sponsored by Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores), and [HB 5306](#), sponsored by Rep. Brian BeGole (R-Perry Twp.), would extend the provisions for five years until Dec. 31, 2030; both House bills were approved by the House Finance Committee and await action by the full House next week.

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February [Board of Review Trainings](#): Registration is now open for online, in-person, and advanced options.

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Legislation requiring mandated reporter training advances

A pair of bills that would improve communication around child abuse reporting obligations reported by the House Families and Veterans Committee this week. [House Bill 5220](#), sponsored by Rep. Angela Rigas (R-Caledonia Twp.), would require all mandated reporters, including law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians, to complete a training course developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) every three years about their obligations under the law and signs to look for in children. Any continuing education completed by a mandated reporter that meets the MDHHS requirements could be used to satisfy the training requirement and restart the clock if it is completed within the timeframe. The bill is tie-barred to [HB 4530](#), sponsored by Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia), which requires mental health professionals to provide patient records to an MDHHS caseworker conducting a child abuse or neglect investigation within seven days of receiving the request. The bills move to the House floor for consideration.

ARPA funds must be fully expended by end of 2026; Treasury begins early closeout

Townships must fully expend their allocation of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds **by Dec. 31, 2026**. All funds must have been fully obligated by the end of 2024. Funds not fully obligated or those townships that did not complete their reporting requirements may see their funds recouped by the U.S. Department of Treasury (even if they are already spent). Beginning this fall, U.S. Treasury began inviting, on a rolling basis, recipients that had fully obligated and expended their ARPA allocation to close out their award ahead of the Dec. 31, 2026, program performance deadline. Recipients invited to close out their award will receive instructions from Treasury. **If your township has not received communication from Treasury, the closeout option is not yet available.** Treasury is expected to open this capability to more municipalities during the 2026 reporting cycle. Treasury will provide instructions at a later date for recipients that do not close out prior to the end of the performance period. Learn more on MTA's ["ARPA Resources and Updates"](#) webpage.



* [Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC](#)

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Reminder: Minimum wage increases for 2026

Michigan's minimum wage increases to \$13.73 per hour, effective Jan. 1, 2026, up from \$12.48 per hour. The minimum wage for minors aged 16 and 17 (85% of minimum wage) will also increase from \$10.60 to \$11.67 per hour; the training wage of \$4.25 per hour for newly hired employees under the age of 20 for their first 90 calendar days of employment remains unchanged. The state's minimum wage is set by Michigan's Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act, which establishes the annual schedule of increases. The minimum wage will increase to \$15 effective Jan. 1, 2027. Beginning in October 2027, the state treasurer will calculate an adjust minimum wage rate, which must increase by the rate of inflation. For further information regarding Michigan's minimum wage and overtime laws, including [FAQs](#) and the required employer [poster](#), visit Michigan.gov/minimumwage.

Treasury releases Uniform Chart of Account revisions

The Michigan Department of Treasury has released [an updated Uniform Chart of Account](#) (UCA), which includes [minor revisions](#) as well as clarification on revenue accounts. Included in the final version of the 2025 revision, and following debate during public comment for the UCA exposure draft, Treasury determined that local units should continue to use account number 569—Other State Grants for revenues from the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption Reimbursement and Qualified Heavy Equipment Rental Personal Property. (Different numbers were included in the exposure draft.) Additional revisions include format changes, division name change, inclusion of a phrase where point off for activity and account numbers can be numbers or letters, updates on some account descriptions, and Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement updates. Townships should now use the new chart of accounts and past copies of the UCA should be discarded.

Reminders for clerks

- **Continuing education requirement:** All clerks are reminded to complete their accreditation prior to Jan. 1, 2026, in the state Bureau of Elections [eLearning Center](#).
- **Election calendar:** The May 2026 election date calendar is [now available](#).
- **Uniformed and overseas citizens ballots:** Denmark is permanently ending letter service operations on Dec. 30. If your township has such voters in Denmark, clerks should proactively communicate with them about their options for delivery and return of ballots for next year, including the option for eligible voters to return electronically. Private carriers like DHL and UPS will still be available, though

parcels continue to be subject to search at customs.

Federal updates for week of Dec. 8

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for the latest on federal actions impacting townships.



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