

Dec. 19, 2025

Legislature wraps up 2025 session

The Legislature concluded the 2025 session this week before the holidays. The House and Senate both moved a number of widely bipartisan-supported bills, but this did not include economic development initiatives, which were outlined as priorities by both chambers to achieve by the end of the calendar year. Assuming all bills passed this week are signed into law, 2025 will produce the fewest number of public acts in a regular session since the founding of the state in 1837. Legislators will return to session in mid-January.



Bill to increase number of parcel splits heads to governor

Legislation to increase the number of parcels that can be divided from a single tract of land received final approval this week. [Senate Bill 23](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), will allow—beginning one year after the effective date—the first 10 acres of a parent tract to be divided into up to 10 parcels. The bill increases the number of splits from current law, which allows the first 10 acres to be divided into four smaller parcels. The bill also permits a municipality to adopt ordinances allowing tracts of land to be partitioned into a greater number of parcels. The bill will now go to the governor.

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Expanded epinephrine delivery systems bills pass House

Due to the growing availability of new ways to administer life-saving epinephrine to someone experiencing an allergic reaction, Michigan's laws must be updated to allow for these lower-cost and longer-lasting technologies to be used by first responders, school officials and more. This week, the House unanimously approved House Bills [5050](#), [5051](#) and [5053](#), sponsored by Reps. Will Snyder (D-Muskegon) and Nancy DeBoer (R-Holland), which amend various laws permitting



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the possession and use of epinephrine autoinjectors (known as “EpiPens”) to now allow for the possession and use of an “epinephrine delivery system,” which includes new technologies such as nasal spray and inhalers in addition to autoinjectors. Police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians must be trained in the use of the delivery systems before being permitted to use them in the field. The bills make no changes to the provision granting immunity from civil liability for law enforcement officers and firefighters who administer or fail to administer epinephrine. The bills advance to the Senate for further action.

Childcare center-required notification to law enforcement and fire departments

Local fire departments and law enforcement agencies will soon be notified if childcare centers in their jurisdiction install temporary locking devices to be used in emergency situations, under legislation approved by the Legislature this week. [Senate Bills 96, 97](#) and [98](#), sponsored by Sens. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), Roger Hauck (R-Union Chtr. Twp.) and Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak), would allow childcare centers to follow the same procedure as schools when they install the devices, requiring them to submit their plans to the appropriate code enforcement agency for review. The bills now head to the governor for signature.



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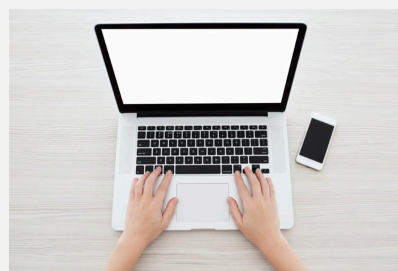
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Legislation approved to permit electronic MTT hearings

Two bills passed received final approval this week to allow the Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT) to hold hearings and decide proceedings electronically



by telephone, video conferencing or in person. [House Bill 4098](#), sponsored by Rep. Pat Outman (R- Belvidere Twp.), expands the act to allow the MTT to hold hearings and decide proceedings electronically by telephone or video conferencing if it is agreed on by the parties involved and approved by the tribunal. [HB 4099](#), sponsored by Rep. Steve Frisbie (R- Pennfield Twp.), amends the Open Meetings Act to make complementary changes allowing for the implementation of HB 4098. The intent of the bills is to improve taxpayers' access to the tax tribunal by eliminating the required to travel to Lansing to participate in the process. Both bills will now be sent to the governor.

Bill could permit new law enforcement agency for municipal water supplier

A package of bills was approved by the House this week allowing a municipal water supplier to establish its own law enforcement agency. The intent of the legislation is to offer policing powers to the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) to protect its large infrastructure footprint, though the legislation would permit any sewage disposal or water supply system authority with a weekly treatment capacity of at least one billion gallons to establish its own law enforcement agency. [House Bills 4352](#) and [4353](#), sponsored by Rep. Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit), and [HBs 4354](#) and [4355](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Chtr. Twp.), were opposed by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards at a committee hearing in the spring, arguing private security was a better fit and the new agency would have a larger jurisdiction than necessary, as GLWA's service area spans eight counties in southeast Michigan. The bills move to the Senate for consideration.

Grants available for financially distressed communities

Townships experiencing financial struggles can now apply for a grant through the Michigan Department of Treasury to help fund special projects and free up tax dollars for important services. [Applications](#) for the [Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships grant program](#) must be submitted by Jan. 30, 2026. Municipalities experiencing at least one condition of "probable financial distress" are eligible to apply for up to \$2 million. Grant funding may be used to pay for specific projects or services that move a community toward financial stability. Preference will be given to applications meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- A financial emergency has been declared in the past 10 years.
 - An approved deficit elimination plan for the general fund is currently in place.
 - Two or more conditions indicating "probable financial distress" currently exist.
 - The fund balance of the general fund has been declining over the past five years, and the fund balance is less than 3% of the general fund revenues.
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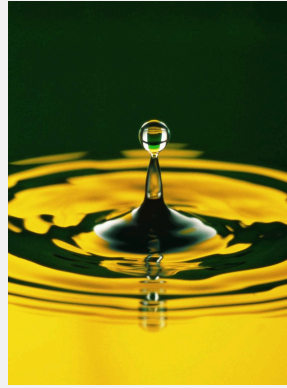
Community Development Block Grant interest forms accepted

The Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA) is accepting Letters of Interest from nonprofit organizations interested in partnering with local governments to become certified as Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs). CBDOs are eligible to receive Community Development Block Grants to carry out neighborhood revitalization projects in non-entitlement areas. Eligible projects can include new housing projects, homeowner and unoccupied rental rehabilitation, manufactured housing, and housing infrastructure. For more information about the partnership between CBDOs and local governments, view the program [fact sheet](#). Nonprofits

interested in participating must submit the [Letter of Interest form](#) by Jan. 5.

Federal Water Technical Assistance announced

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced the solicitation for [Water Technical Assistance](#) that connects communities to experts who help assess and implement solutions for drinking water, sewer and stormwater needs. Local governments and drinking water/wastewater/stormwater



utilities and systems are eligible to apply. The program will provide free technical assistance to communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build technical, managerial and financial capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. No match is required and the program has a rolling application period.

Reminders for clerks

- **Precinct consolidation:** Jurisdictions looking to permanently consolidate precincts in preparation for 2026 must do so by Jan. 6, 2026, Precinct boundary changes must be approved by your local election commission by resolution and after changes are approved by the local election commission, notify the county clerk of all rearranging or consolidation of precincts.
 - **Post-election audit submissions:** Conduct your post-election audits as soon as possible and enter the results into the state Bureau of Election's (BOE) e-Learning.
 - **Video surveillance requirement:** Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, municipalities must use video monitoring of all drop boxes during the 75 days before each election. This requirement now applies to all drop boxes, regardless of when they were purchased or installed. The BOE has funding available to purchase drop boxes or reimburse costs incurred from drop boxes and/or security cameras purchased for those that have not already submitted a request for eligible drop boxes.
 - **Early Voting November Wage Application:** Early Voting Wage Reimbursement claims are available to be submitted in the Electronic Orders & Requests system. This reimbursement claim period closes Jan. 9, 2026.
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Still time to register for MTA's two-day *Winter Academy*

Give yourself the gift of learning when you register for MTA's [2026 Winter Academy](#) coming to **Frankenmuth on Jan. 13-14**. Customize your experience by choosing one, two or all three classes offered. First, our experts will help you clarify

and strengthen *Board Roles & Relationships*, then offer strategies for building consensus in *How Boards Make Decisions*, and finally, explore techniques to ensure your services are *Meeting Township Needs*. Attend two courses and save \$50, or save \$75 by attending all three. [Register now](#) to secure your seat or [download the full brochure](#) to learn more.

Federal updates for week of Dec. 15

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



Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US



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