

Official end of the 2024 legislative session occurs with sine die next week

The Legislature wrapped up voting on bills last week, but the official adjournment for 2024, known as sine die, will occur early next week. Sine die signifies that the legislative body has concluded its meeting without setting a day or time to reconvene at the end of a session year. Any legislation not passed and forwarded to the governor is considered dead and must be reintroduced. Under the state's constitution, the 103rd legislative session will convene on Jan. 8—the second Tuesday in January—to begin the new two-year term.



MTA wishes to thank members for engaging with their state legislators during 2024—both in support of favorable legislation to townships and in opposition to bills that were harmful or preempted township authority. Last week's *Township Insights* included several bills that were passed; however, there were also many bills that did not receive final approval. Key issues that did not see action included road funding, changes to earned sick time law, increases in tipping fees, and the creation of a statewide sanitary code. While not inclusive, below is a list of key legislative issues that impacted townships that will die at the end of 2024 and must be reintroduced in the 103rd session to be considered:

- Creation of a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund—MTA supported
- Creation of short-term rental statute maintaining local zoning authority—MTA supported
- Changes to close the big box store loophole—MTA supported
- Preemption of local zoning authority on siting of sand and gravel mining operations—MTA opposed
- Creation of a state Voting Rights Act—MTA opposed [SB 401](#)
- Preemption of local zoning authority (minimum parking requirements, study requirements and duplexes by right)—MTA opposed
- Requirement for minimum staffing as subject of collective bargaining for police and fire personnel—MTA opposed

MTA looks forward to partnering with our members to advance legislation beneficial to townships in the upcoming session.

Unemployment benefit increase now law

An increase in workers' unemployment compensation, both the number of weeks and the level of benefits, is now law. [Public Act 173 of 2024](#), sponsored by Sen. Paul Wojno (D-Warren), increases the maximum number of weeks from 20 weeks to 26 weeks for an individual qualifying for unemployment benefits, and increases the maximum weekly benefit rate from \$362 to \$614 incrementally over the next three years. The changes will take effect 91 days

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from sine die.

Registration for MTA's 2025 Annual Conference opens Jan. 2



MTA's signature event returns to Grand Rapids March 31 through April 3— connecting YOU with municipal experts, inspiring speakers and more than 1,000 of your fellow officials. Premier education includes 55 timely township topics targeting the changes, requirements and expectations of today's local leaders, and our expo features more than 100 municipal vendors offering services that can help you improve your community. **Registration opens next week, on Thursday, Jan. 2;** housing opens on Jan. 23. Watch for the full brochure in your January *Township Focus* magazine, [download a copy here](#) or [visit MTA's Conference webpage](#) for all the details.

Feb. 26: [Sault St. Marie Online Training](#)



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Updated numbered letters issued

The Michigan Department of Treasury recently issued nine updated [Numbered Letters](#)—which provide accounting and auditing guidance to local governments—and removed seven outdated letters. The department also issued [Numbered Letter 2024-2, Accounting for State Pension and OPEB Grants](#), to provide direction to local units of government that received a [MI Local Retirement Grant Program](#) award on the accounting and reporting of the grant. Submit questions or comments to (517) 335-7469, LAFD Audits@michigan.gov, or Local Audit and Finance Division, Michigan Department of Treasury, P.O. Box 30728, Lansing, MI 48909-8228.

Coastal management grant deadline extended

Townships now have until Jan. 8 to apply for the [Michigan Coastal Management Program Grants](#), which aim to protect community character and revitalize ports and harbors; plan for growth and change to strengthen economies and minimize risk from coastal hazards; protect and restore healthy coastal ecosystems for public use and enjoyment; devise solutions for the nature-based solutions to slow the flow of stormwater; or create and enhance public access. Apply through the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy EGX grants database; visit [EGX-Sign-Up](#) and [Getting Started in EGX](#) for instructions. Contact arenda@michigan.gov with questions.

Finalized BEAD locations

and key dates

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) received final approval from the federal government for Michigan's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program location classifications. Because some locations considered "ineligible" in the draft data (released on Dec. 10) have been deemed "eligible" in the final data and some draft "eligible" locations have a final status of "ineligible," all potential BEAD applicants should incorporate the final classifications into their project planning. Townships are among the entities allowed to apply in the BEAD program, in addition to public-private partnerships, other local units of governments, cooperatives, nonprofits, private companies, and public or private utilities. Updated BEAD location information can be found on the [BEAD Locations](#) website, along with an interactive mapping tool and downloadable files for project planning. The following are key dates for the BEAD program:



- Pre-registration submissions made by **4 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2025**, will be responded to with requests for clarification if additional information is needed.
- Pre-registration submissions received between **4:01 p.m. on Jan. 9 and before 4 p.m. on March 10, 2025**, will be reviewed exactly as submitted.
- Project applications will be accepted between **9 a.m. on Jan. 9 and 4 p.m. on April 9, 2025**.

Complete information about Michigan's BEAD program can be found on [MIHI's website](#).

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Upcoming Catalyst Community webinar on food waste

The first free webinar of 2025 in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's [Catalyst Communities Initiative](#) will be held Jan. 15 at 11 a.m., with a focus on local government strategies to reduce food waste. Learn from one city's success supporting their county materials management plan by registering [online](#) now.

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Federal government shutdown averted

Legislation was signed by the president last week to prevent a federal government shutdown. The funding legislation was approved just as the deadline arrived. The continuing resolution to extend funding for the federal government until March 14, 2025, did not include the debt ceiling hike requested by President-Elect Trump.

Nominations due Jan. 6 for 2025 'Spirit of MTA' award

The "Spirit of MTA" award was created to recognize township leaders who defend and advance the best interests of their township and townships as a whole—as the organization has done on behalf of Michigan's 1,240 townships for more than 70 years. Is there an elected official in your township who leads with a "Unique and United" approach to public service? Nominate them by Jan. 6 for the 2025 "Spirit of MTA" award by completing [this simple online form](#). We'll honor the award recipient at [our Annual Conference in April](#). Our Conference theme of "Unique and United" encapsulates the nature—and strength—of township government, and nominations should highlight how the nominee's public service reflects this philosophy. *(Only currently serving elected township board members are eligible for nomination; to avoid duplication, please consolidate nominations for the same individual from one township.)*

MTA offices closed for New Year's holiday

MTA's office will be closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday. We will resume normal office hours on Thursday, Jan. 2. Due to the holiday, the next issue of *Township Insights* will be on Jan. 10.

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