

Feb. 20, 2026

Urgent: Engage with your legislator today on housing proposal

A bipartisan group of legislators announced a package of bills this week to limit local governments' ability to plan their



community's future. The nine-bill package (four have been introduced) purports to address the state's housing shortage by restricting local authority and local decisions. Affordable housing is essential across the state, but it should not come at the expense of local input by requiring local governments to follow one-size-fits-all requirements from the state. Three of the bills were introduced this week are opposed by MTA and were before the House Regulatory Reform Committee Thursday.

[HB 5529](#), sponsored by Rep. Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids), would prohibit local ordinances from requiring a minimum parcel or lot size greater than 1,500 square feet for a detached single-family residence where the parcel is accessible and will be served by public sewer and public water. [HB 5530](#), sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Wortz (R-Quincy Twp.), would prohibit a minimum parcel size greater than 1,500 square feet for a detached single-family residence where the parcel is accessible and will be served by public water and public sewer. [HB 5531](#), sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Neeley (D-Flint), would create a 60-day decision shot clock from the date of receipt of all site plan applications—including commercial, industrial, special land use, office and multi-family—by a local unit of government, even an incomplete application, and limits when additional studies or information can be required for the same application after initial studies are requested.

Other proposals announced in the package include allowing mobile homes in any residential zone, mandating parking requirements at no more than one space per dwelling unit for multi-family residential use of property, mandating accessory dwelling units be permitted by right in residential zoning districts and not subject to public hearing as well as exclusion from density calculations, additional parking requirements and owner occupancy requirements, mandating setback requirements at **15 feet or less from the front property line and five feet from the sides and rear** for dwellings if the local unit of government is located in whole or in part within a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or is located adjacent to a MSA area—impacting 662 townships—and prohibiting a minimum area requirement for a dwelling greater than 500 square feet.

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UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

February 25 & 26: [ONLINE Board of Review Training](#) (Basic & Advanced) registration closing soon!

March 10: FREE live Q&A, 11 AM [The Compliance Countdown: Is Your Website Ready?](#)

March 17: [2026 MTA Capital Conference](#)

March 18: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar [Squeaky Wheel Maintenance: Using Policies to Turn Complaints into Constructive Input](#)

April 20-23: Registration is open for [MTA's 2026 Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#) at the Grand Traverse Resort

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The legislation does not consider the full scope of factors impacting attainable housing, including labor shortages, rising labor, material and land costs, and state mandates, and instead places the blame solely on local governments. We ask lawmakers to instead work toward a true, comprehensive solution to help resolve the housing shortage. **Contact your [state representative](#) today to voice your opposition** and ensure residents and locally elected leaders have the freedom to engage in vigorous debate on matters that impact their community every day.

Paid military leave requirement

Townships may soon be required to provide at least 26 days of paid military leave for full-time firefighters and law enforcement officers under legislation approved Thursday by the House Government Operations Committee. [House Bill 5233](#), sponsored by Rep. Ron Robinson (R-Utica) and opposed by MTA, would require law enforcement agencies and organized fire departments to provide a minimum of 26 days of paid military leave at the beginning of each year for employees enlisted in the Army or Air National Guard or in the reserves (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard). The state-required military leave time would not rollover at the end of a calendar year and would be used for military training or performance of military duty as well as a preinduction physical for those seeking to enlist. The employee seeking use of the paid military leave would have to be paid at their regular rate of pay and, if covered by a collective bargaining agreement, provided all contractually required benefits and accruals. MTA was able to obtain two clarifying amendments to HB 5233—that it is applicable to full-time employees only and that there is no payout of the military leave upon separation of employment. The bill moves to the full House for a vote.



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Legislation advances on annual food truck fire inspections/prohibits local fees and ordinances

Legislation standardizing the fire inspection process for mobile food establishments would also prohibit a local unit from adopting any rule, regulation, code or ordinance that imposes a fee, tax or assessment for the operation of a food truck. [House Bill 5450](#), sponsored by Rep. Timothy Beson (R-Kawkawlin Twp.), and [HB 5451](#), sponsored by Rep. Joseph Aragona (R-Clinton Chtr. Twp.), were approved by the House Regulatory Reform Committee this week. While the intent of HB 5451 is to require an annual fire inspection with required notification and inspection timelines, **HB 5450 prohibits local units of government from all regulation and fees**, including electrical inspections, permits, and



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

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

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

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

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protections to public water and sewer systems. MTA opposed HB 5451 as it is not limited to only fire inspections of food trucks. Both bills will next be considered by the full House.

House approves reinstatement of special assessment deferral bills holding locals harmless

Two bills supported by MTA were approved by the House this week to reinstate a previous special assessment deferment program. The program, originally created in 1976 and eliminated in 2020, previously allowed senior citizens and totally or permanently disabled individuals to qualify for a deferment of payment of special assessments on their homestead based on a minimum threshold. The deferment program requires the state Department of Treasury to reimburse local units of assessments which is then repaid when the special assessment is remitted by the taxpayer. [House Bill 4080](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Hoadley (R-Au Gres), would reinstate the special assessment deferment program for senior citizens and totally or permanently disabled residents for special assessments assessed on or after Oct. 1, 2022, and expand special assessments to include dam construction or reconstruction assessments. [HB 4079](#), sponsored by Rep. Bill Schuette (R-Midland), would increase the income eligibility cap to \$34,000 and would eliminate the interest rate for the deferred amount. The bills now move to the Senate for consideration.



Mandated reporter training requirement passes House

A pair of bills aiming to strengthen child abuse reporting procedures passed the House by a vote of 108-1. [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 every three years reminding them of the signs of abuse and their reporting obligations under the law. The bill requires the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to develop the training, though any continuing education completed by a mandated reporter that meets the MDHHS requirements could be used to satisfy the training requirement and restart the three-year clock. 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 Senate for further discussion.

Good Samaritan update for bleeding control measures

Individuals acting in good faith who voluntarily apply bleeding control measures during a medical emergency would be immune from civil liability under a bill that passed the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 590](#), sponsored by Sen. Rick Outman (R-Belvidere Twp.), would apply to individuals who have no duty to respond to a medical emergency, so long as their actions do not constitute gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct. An identical House bill passed the House in the fall, and it is likely the chambers will negotiate whose bill will be passed by a second chamber and sent to the governor.

MTA 2026 Capital Conference—Register today at regular rate

Register today to get the regular rate for [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#). This event puts you in the room with decisionmakers shaping Michigan's future—legislators, state departments and MTA policy experts. You'll walk away with the knowledge, clarity and tools you need to navigate the evolving policy landscape and better position your township. This year's event focuses on major legislative and policy issues at the forefront facing township government including housing and zoning issues—from renewable energy facilities and data centers to recent housing legislation, the state revenue forecast and state budget, election changes, and new grant programs for your township. Discover how you can [benefit from attending](#) and engage, advocate and influence the legislative issues impacting townships in 2026. **Learn more about [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#) and register before the regular rate ends on March 3!**



Notice of spam emails and calls involving MTA events

MTA has been made aware that some township officials have received spam emails and even telephone calls purporting to sell attendee lists or redirect to hotel rooms outside MTA room blocks for our upcoming Capital Conference and Annual Conference & Expo. Unfortunately, these scams are common across the industry and are difficult to prevent entirely. If you receive such a solicitation, **do not click on any links or respond to these emails, or offer any personal or credit card information over the phone.**

These solicitations are fraudulent phishing schemes and are not from MTA. We do not use any third parties to sell mailing lists, and all official event registration and housing confirmations will come directly from MTA or our official Conference housing bureau, Grand Connection. If you are ever unsure about a communication, please feel free to contact MTA directly to verify its legitimacy. We also

recommend that you block the sender, report the message or mark as “junk,” and share with your township’s IT support.

FY 27 Congressionally Directed Spending Project funding opportunity

Townships can submit Congressionally Directed Spending Project request applications for Fiscal Year 2027 beginning next week for a five-week submission window to U.S. Sen. Gary Peters’ office. To be considered, a project must be eligible for federal funding within its respective appropriations bill account and comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Traditionally, projects experience greater funding success if they can be completed in one funding cycle. View a [FY 2026 list](#) that highlights the success of those projects submitted. Applicants will be required to provide a detailed budget for the project, letters of support and a letter of certification via an electronic application to the senator’s office. To get an idea of eligible projects and the grant process, review the [2026 guidelines](#) as well as [past projects](#) submitted. Email questions on how to submit a request to appropriations@peters.senate.gov.

// FREE MTA Q&A WEBINAR ON WEBSITE ADA COMPLIANCE

🕒 TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 @ 11:00AM

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Kyle Shumaker



Statewide municipal cannabis summit March 11

The state Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) will hold a statewide Municipal Summit on March 11 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Staff from the CRA’s legal, licensing and enforcement divisions will host the 90-minute Zoom call that will also allow time for questions from local officials. *Those who have previously RSVPed for a CRA Municipal Summit do not need to RSVP again but should watch for a new email link the week of the event.* New attendees may RSVP by emailing CRA-SocialEquity@michigan.gov by 5 p.m. on March 4 with the name of their municipality, and the name, email address, title and phone number for those planning to attend. CRA will confirm attendance via email, including the Zoom link, in the week before the summit. Submit questions for CRA to address during the summit to CRA-SocialEquity@michigan.gov. Additionally, a [Municipal Guide](#)—in which CRA answers many commonly asked questions from municipal officials, including adult-use and medical facility licensing questions, and enforcement questions—is available in the Other Resources section of the CRA’s [Laws, Rules, & Other Resources page](#).

NextCycle Michigan Accelerator technical assistance opportunity and webinar

Townships can apply through March 25 for technical assistance through the [NextCycle Michigan Accelerator](#) if

they are interested in expanding recycling services in their communities. The program will select 15 to 18 projects that fall into two categories:

- **Public-led Recycling Solutions** that expand recycling and composting access, infrastructure, and education.
- **Private-led Recycling Supply Chain Solutions**



that include business and partnership projects focused on addressing gaps in collection, hauling, processing, or end-market development using recycled materials.

Selected teams will receive six months of no-cost technical assistance to strengthen operational plans, evaluate economic and environmental impacts, build stakeholder partnerships, and identify sustainable funding resources that will culminate in a public project showcase event. [Register here](#) for an informational webinar scheduled for Feb. 24 at noon.

Framework for a healthier workplace

The final episode in the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's trauma-informed workplace series will review a framework any organization can use to cultivate a mentally healthier workplace culture that mitigates stress and contributes to employee well being. Join the webinar on [Microsoft Teams](#) at 2 p.m. on March 19.

New MTA fact sheet explores charter township property taxes

Charter townships have different property tax limitations and millage options from general law townships. MTA's new "Charter Township Property Taxes" fact sheet covers tax limitations, "charter millage" vs. extra-voted millage, and choices charter township boards have in deciding how to use them for their township's specific needs and programs. [Download the fact sheet here.](#)

Early voting reminders for clerks

- Each county clerk must inform all local clerks in their county by **March 2** whether they will offer county-run early voting. Local clerks must inform their county clerk of early voting plans no later than **March 9**. Municipalities can offer early voting by entering into a county or municipal agreement or conduct as a single municipality.
 - Early voting plans and agreements must be completed and signed no later than **April 1** and filed with the county clerk no later than **April 6**. Plan and agreement templates can be accessed via the Michigan Bureau of Elections [eLearning Center](#) and must be opened with Adobe Acrobat to be digitally signed.
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