Michigan Township INSIGHTS

June 12, 2026

Term of office bills receive final passage



All elected township officials will soon have their term of office begin no earlier than Dec. 1 following the November general election. Senate Bill 240, sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Bloomfield Twp.) and approved by the House this week, will change the term of office for all elected township officers to commence at noon on Dec. 1 following the officer's November election. The bill is part of a four-bill package that will also move the start date for all newly elected city and village officials to Dec. 1. The legislation has been discussed in previous sessions but never received final approval. Two of four bills in the package have been presented to the governor, and SB 240 along with the fourth bill are expected to be presented next week for signature. MTA will update members once the measure is signed into law.

Single stairway for multifamily housing clears first chamber

Legislation supported by MTA allowing certain multifamily buildings to have a single interior exit stairway passed the House this week. House Bills 5770 and 5771, sponsored by Reps. Parker Fairbairn (R-Harbor Springs) and Stephen Wooden (D-Grand Rapids), implement fire safety requirements for multifamily housing to allow for the development of apartment buildings with smaller footprints. The changes to the building code would allow apartment buildings to have a single stairway design with a maximum of four units on each level, a maximum distance of 125 feet to the exit from the furthest point within a level, automatic smoke detection and smoke detectors in common areas, and automatic sprinkler locations in the exit stairway. For five story buildings, the building must also be serviced by an accredited fire department with a class 1 or 2 ranking by the Insurance Services Office, which includes aerial apparatus requirements. The bills head to the Senate for further review.

House approves bill to exempt video streaming services from local franchise fees

A measure to exempt certain companies from paying local franchise fees for video streaming services was passed by





UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

June Election Ready afternoon workshops:
- **June 16** – Marquette, NMU
- **June 17** – Gaylord, Treetops Resort
- **June 23** – Frankenmuth, Bavarian Inn Lodge
- **June 25** – Online, 1-5 p.m.

July 14-15: Summer Academy, Bay Valley Resort in Bay City:
- Creating a Vision
- Linking with the Community
- Strategic Planning

July 15: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Summer Update: Legislative News from the Capitol

Coming to three locations this August, Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning evening workshops.

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

the House this week. Opposed by MTA, House Bill 5123 excludes direct-to-home satellite services or streaming content and specifies that it includes only services provided by a video service provider. The bill also would specifically exempt streaming and satellite services (i.e., Disney+, Hulu, Netflix, YouTube TV and others) from sharing the cost of maintaining local rights-of-way (ROW), the very location of the infrastructure that these services use to distribute video content. Local governments maintain the ROW and all utilities that operate in the ROW are responsible for sharing that cost. By exempting some ROW users, HB 5123 will create an unlevel playing field, leaving traditional cable providers to pay the franchise fee to cover the costs of public access TV stations. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.





First responder interference bills approved by House

Legislation creating new criminal penalties for interfering with first responders after being issued a verbal warning was approved by the House this week. House Bills 5574, 5575, and 5576, sponsored by Reps. Alicia St. Germaine (R-Harrison Chtr. Twp.), Mike Harris (R-Clarkston) and Jay DeBoyer (R-Clay Twp.), would create a misdemeanor for knowingly and willfully violating a warning issued by a first responder acting in the course of their duties with intent to disrupt the first responder's ability to do their job through threats, harassment or interference. The legislation rises to a felony and provides a maximum sentence of two years for coming within 25 feet and causing injury of a first responder after a warning and 15 years for causing death. The bills advance to the Senate for discussion.

Amber alert flexibility legislation receives Senate support

A two-bill package, sponsored by Sens. John Cherry (D-Flint) and Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), updating Michigan's Amber Alert Act received unanimous Senate approval. Senate Bills 891 and 892 would expand the circumstances under which the Michigan State Police (MSP) can issue an Amber Alert. Currently, after receiving notice from local law enforcement, MSP can issue an Amber Alert if a child has been abducted, faces imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death, and enough information exists for the public to assist in recovering the child or apprehending a suspect.

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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

MTA QUICK LINKS

Answer Center
Training
Advocacy
Classifieds
Community Connection
Webcasts
Store
Township Governance Academy
Allied Service Providers
NATaT

The current law excludes runaway children, children involved in parental abductions stemming from civil custody disputes, and children with special needs who wander away but are not confirmed to be in imminent danger. Under the bills, MSP would have greater flexibility to issue alerts, including for missing children with special needs and for any missing child MSP believes may be in danger following a preliminary investigation. The bills now move to the House for consideration.



House committee advances repeal of state issued youth work permits

House Bill 5727, sponsored by Rep. Mike Hoadley (R-Au Gres), would repeal recent changes to the state's Youth Employment Standards Act adopted in 2024, specifically the requirement for the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to develop and maintain a registration system for minors seeking work and issue work permits. The responsibility for confirming a minor's eligibility to work would be transferred to employers. The bill addresses the circumstances and hours minors under the age of 16 may work, and requires schools to notify employers when a working minor is not in good standing due to attendance problems, poor academic performance or disciplinary issues. Schools would have the ability to request employment information from the student and their parents or guardians, while employers would have 30 days to correct any technical errors in information submitted to schools. Following the House Economic Competitiveness Committee's approval this week, HB 5727 has been referred to the House Rules Committee for further consideration.

2026 PPT Reimbursement Millage Data available for review

All municipalities are asked to review the Michigan Department of Treasury's 2026 Millage Rate Comparison Reports that provides information for each municipality's calculated millage rates. While not required, municipalities are asked to verify and correct any errors in Treasury's calculation of eligible millage rates by Aug. 1, as the rates will be used for the 2026 Personal Property Tax (PPT) reimbursement. If errors are found, you are asked to complete Form 5613, *Millage Rate Correction for the 2026 Personal Property Tax Reimbursement Calculation* and provide supporting documentation. Forms will **not** be accepted after the Aug. 1 deadline. Contact TreasORTAPPT@michigan.gov or call (517) 335-7484 with questions. If no errors are found, no action is required.



Changes to the RRCA program

The Renewables Ready Communities Award (RRCA) grant program is for municipalities involved in large-scale renewable energy projects (wind, solar, battery storage, or hybrid project 50 megawatts/MW or larger) approved through local permitting after Sept. 1, 2023. A local unit of government involved in hosting and/or permitting any portion of an eligible project may apply once permitted to receive up to $5,000 per MW from the program. Changes have been made to the original RRCA that will now require the project to meet a Project Labor Agreement requirement. If it does not, the local unit's final payment will be 80% of the maximum. Thus, under the change, the RRCA will award a local government $4,000 per MW; the award may be increased by 20% if the developer of the project establishes a satisfactory Project Labor Agreement for the construction of the project. If the host and permitter are separate (e.g., with county zoning), each local unit receives half of the award ($2,000 per MW.) This one-time award payment is made in full when construction begins on the project, and there are no requirements on how the RRCA dollars can be spent. The award agreement ends once paid; no further reporting by the local unit is required. Follow-up surveys on award use will be conducted by the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The RRCA webpage contains details about eligibility, award amount determinations, Project Labor Agreement standards, and more.

Deep dive in permitting for BEAD

In the latest Michigan BEAD Breakdown web series episode, the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) takes a deep dive into all things permitting and why it is a key part of expanding high-speed internet across Michigan. This episode covers what the permitting process is and why it is so important for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. Additional information on the BEAD program can be found at MI BEAD Breakdown as well as access to permitting resources in the MIHI document center.

BOE updates for clerks

BOE trainings. The State Bureau of Elections (BOE) is offering multiple election security training opportunities:

- All election officials should register via BOE's eLearning Center for an election security webinar, to be held June 18, Aug. 19 and Oct. 7.

- Physical election security preparedness trainings are available via BOE's partnership with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Two sessions will take place before the 2026 November general election: July 15 (Marquette County) and Sept. 29 (Roscommon County). Pre-registration is required.

Upcoming August primary deadlines:
June 20:

- Electronic or mail transmission of military and overseas absent voter ballots
- Notice of newly established polling places or early voting sites
- Clerks must begin making a reasonable effort to verify or reject absent voter (AV) ballot applications by the end of the business day following receipt
- County clerks to provide programming for electronic voting equipment and AV ballots to local clerks

June 25:

- AV ballots must be available for issuance to voters
- AV drop boxes must be accessible 24 hours a day

June 30

- Daily collection from AV drop boxes required each day the clerk's office is open from this point forward

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Potential new phishing scam mimics township communications



MTA has been made aware of a new email scam that may be targeting townships, and would like make officials aware to be on the lookout. The sophisticated scam was sent to a developer referencing a "pending application," appearing to be from a township and using language directly from the township's website. It urged "immediate attention," asking the developer to share banking information, and stated that all correspondence must be "conducted via email only." Townships may wish to share information with their community about the potential scam, urging caution, providing details on official township communications channels, and asking to be notified if a fraudulent email is received purporting to be from the township. Townships can also be victims of scam emails. To help ensure you do not fall victim to a phishing scheme or cybersecurity threat, it is important to take note of the full email address from which the email was sent (a fake address may look suspicious or even have something as simple as one incorrect letter separating it from a legitimate sender. For example, a hacker posing as a government official might have an address ending with "michigann.gov" instead of "michigan.gov."). We also recommend that you block the sender, report the message or mark as "junk," and share with your township's IT support.

Play It Forward grants offer opportunity for access to inclusive playgrounds

Is your township considering a playground project? You can apply now for a once-in-a-decade "Play It Forward" grant opportunity investing $1 million in inclusive play across Michigan. Applications are now open to receive up to $100,000 toward inclusive playground development. The grant seeks to celebrate the 10-year partnership between inclusive play advocate Unlimited Play and Little Tikes Commercial, and includes planning, design and advocacy services and publicity to help the chosen playgrounds serve as national examples of community-driven play for all. A limited number of Michigan communities will be selected. The application deadline is June 30.

Federal updates for week of June 9

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



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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