

June 13, 2025

Minimum staffing measure considered by Senate committee

MTA opposed legislation to require minimum staffing levels be a mandatory subject of collective bargaining between the public employer and the representative of its police and fire department employees. [Senate Bill 319](#), sponsored by Sen. Veronica Klinefelt (D-Eastpointe), was before the Senate Labor Committee this week and would amend the Public Employment Relations Act to require minimum staffing levels be included as a subject of collective bargaining. In addition to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, minimum staffing would also be subject to arbitration for labor disputes involving public police and fire departments. While contracts are typically multi-year agreements, SB 319—a reintroduction from last session—creates a one-year look back on local government revenues (revenue sharing and property tax values). This legislation would have a negative impact on local governments across the state as it would create further risk and uncertainty to the financial security of a municipality. MTA encourages members with collective bargaining contracts to consider the impact on your township and [contact your state senator](#) with your concerns. The bill is expected to be voted on by the committee as soon as next week.



Par Plan Professional Development Day

Safety and Risk Management Sessions for Michigan Public Entities

August 14

Kalamazoo

Presented by the Michigan Township Participating Plan

Scan the QR code for event details and to register.

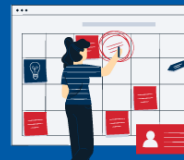


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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Earned Sick Time Act & Your Township](#) (9-11:30 a.m.)

June 17: Marquette

June 18: Gaylord

June 24: Mt. Pleasant

[Cemetery Challenges & Solutions](#) (1-5 p.m.)

June 17: Marquette

June 18: Gaylord

June 24: Mt. Pleasant

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Oversight of water supply systems in mobile home parks approved by Senate

Complaints of unsafe water for waterworks systems of mobile home or seasonal mobile home parks could soon be investigated by the director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). [Senate Bill 46](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), passed the Senate this week to allow EGLE to regulate waterworks systems according to state drinking water standards for customer site piping at a mobile home park or seasonal mobile home park. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

Committee approves free naloxone distribution to fire departments

Fire departments may soon be included as emergency services providers allowed to receive free naloxone distribution from the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under a bill approved by the House Regulatory Reform Committee this week. The sponsor of [House Bill 4417](#), Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Chtr. Twp.), testified in a hearing earlier this month that fire engines may be the first to arrive on scene and therefore should be equipped with the lifesaving opioid antagonist. Under the bill, if DHHS was distributing free opioid antagonists, they must also provide it for free upon request to any life support agencies, including ambulance operations, fire departments and medical aircraft transport operations. The bill awaits consideration before the full House.

MTA worked to remove property tax exemption for pet cemeteries

Legislation to create basic requirements for the operation of pet cemeteries originally included a property tax exemption as introduced. MTA, after working with bill sponsor Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Keego Harbor), was successful in having the property tax exemption removed from [Senate Bill 157](#). The bill, passed by the Senate this week, is intended to protect pet owners from unregulated and deceptive business practices and will require pet cemetery owners to adhere to specific requirements, including filing a dedication with the office of the county register of deeds for any land used or proposed to be used as a pet cemetery.

Legislation to create parity for township supervisors to perform marriages

Township supervisors would be afforded the same permissive opportunity as mayors, county clerks and judges to perform a marriage for residents of their township under legislation approved by the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 285](#), sponsored by Sen. Veronica Klinefelt (D-Eastpointe) and supported by MTA, would add township supervisors to the current law that limits officiating marriages to mayors, county clerks, judges and magistrates. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.



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Measure would remove inactive voter registrations

Legislation to require the secretary of state contact a voter on the Qualified Voter File (QVF) if they have not voted in 10 years was approved by the House this week. [House Bill 4356](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Hoadley (R-Au Gres), would establish a procedure for the secretary of state to notify individuals who are registered but who have not voted in at least 10 years, with the aim of removing deceased individuals and people who have relocated from the addresses they registered at from voter rolls. The bill moves to the Senate for consideration.

House approves changes for anaerobic digesters

Two bills simplifying the regulatory framework for anaerobic digesters passed the House this week. [House Bill 4257](#), introduced by Rep. Jerry Neyer (R-Lincoln Twp.), would amend the definitions of anaerobic digester and digestate to prevent them from being subjected to regulatory requirements of a composting or recycling facility. [HB 4265](#), sponsored by Rep. Joey Andrews (D- St. Joseph Chtr. Twp.), would specify that digestate from digester-appropriate sources applied in accordance with generally accepted agricultural management practices could not be classified as solid waste. The bills also make several changes to EGLE's permitting process to clarify requirements for facilities that accept source material generated off-site. They now await consideration in the Senate.

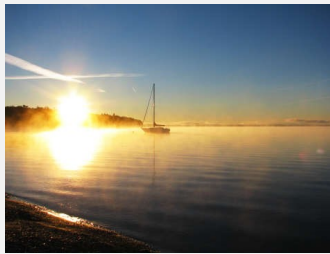
2025 STC Updates course offerings

All certified assessing officers are required to take the [2025 State Tax Commission \(STC\) Updates](#) class as part of their continuing education renewal requirements for the renewal cycle beginning Nov. 1, 2024, and ending Oct. 31, 2025. A virtual *2025 STC Updates* course will be held via Zoom from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 20, with registration limited to 200 people. Register [here](#). An in-person session will be held in Jackson on Sept. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon; contact jvanhassel@mijackson.org or (517) 788-4378 to register. The *2025 STC Updates* class is also available online for all assessors and technicians through STC's [Continuing Education Portal](#). The *STC Updates* course is also the only course that currently satisfies the training requirement for all township assessing support staff, which, per the STC, must be completed once every two years. "Support staff" is anyone on the township staff who is not certified as an assessing officer or technician, but who is involved in the development of the assessment roll, including field work.

Grant opportunity for harbors, public boating sites

Townships and other local units of government can now [apply](#) for the next round of the Waterways Grant Program, for projects that improve recreational boating and waterway infrastructure at grant-in-aid

harbors and public boating access sites. A 50% match is required to access the funds; applications are accepted until April 1, 2026.



New resources for tornado, ice storm impacted counties

Two new emergency declarations due to extreme weather have opened new recovery opportunities for residents and businesses in several counties. After high winds and 11 tornadoes inflicted damage across the state on May 15, an emergency declaration for Allegan and Baraga Counties as well as the City of Lansing allows individuals and businesses to [request additional time](#) to file state tax returns and pay state tax bills, with penalties and interest waived. Extension requests can be made through the [Individual Income Tax eService](#) or [Business Taxes eService](#).

Additionally, a recent disaster declaration for the late March ice storm by the U.S. Small Business Administration in Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Emmet, Mackinac, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties opened eligibility for several disaster loans in the [MySBA portal](#). These include loans for small businesses, agricultural cooperatives, renters and homeowners impacted by the extreme weather.

Webinar helping communities reduce residential food waste

Food waste is estimated to make up almost 24% of Michigan's municipal solid waste. Local governments can harness the value of residential food waste and reduce the amount heading to landfills through community drop-off programs. On June 24 at 11 a.m., the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will host a [webinar](#) for municipal leaders interested in learning more about existing programs, challenges and opportunities associated with food waste composting efforts, and how pilot programs can be used to foster investments into curbside collection of food waste.

Federal updates for week of June 10

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

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