

June 21, 2024

## MPSC releases proposed draft guidance for large-scale renewable utility siting

[Draft application instructions and procedures for renewable energy and energy storage facility siting](#) pursuant to Public Act 233 of 2023 was presented by Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) staff to the commissioners and posted on the commission's website today. The draft was prepared by MPSC staff after six public meetings were held and public comments were received on initial staff proposals. Meeting recordings and presentations, and informal public comments received are listed on the MPSC [Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Facility Siting webpage](#). Comments may be filed by July 17 and reply comments may be filed by Aug. 9. MPSC staff will also hold a [public meeting on July 10](#) to discuss this proposal prior to the close of the initial comment period.



MTA staff and the Association's legal counsel are reviewing the draft application instructions and procedures released late today in order to make necessary modifications to a model compatible renewable energy ordinance and model application that will be provided to our members.

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## Employers may soon be required to post veterans' benefits and services

Townships and other employers would be required to display a poster at their place of business that includes information related to certain services and benefits available to veterans. [House Bill 5736](#), sponsored by Rep. Denise Mentzer (D-Mt. Clemens), would apply to any employer with one or more full-time employees. The

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## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

### [Election Prep: Beyond the Bureau:](#)

June 25: [Marquette](#)

June 26: [Online](#)

June 27: [Gaylord](#)

**Now You Know** lunchtime webinar:

bill was approved by the House Labor Committee this week and now moves to the full House for a vote.

## Bill to permit use of golf carts on additional streets approved by Senate

Townships with a population of up to 65,000 could pass a resolution to allow the operation of golf carts on their streets unless disallowed by the county commission under a bill passed by the Senate this week. Currently, only municipalities with a population under 30,000 can allow such use of golf carts on streets. [Senate Bill 771](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), would raise the population threshold and would also restrict those communities that are allowed to request the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for permission to allow golf carts on state trunkline highways if the roads meet certain conditions. Any community can make this request under current statute, but SB 771 would limit those that can request to communities with a population of less than 30,000. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

July 10: [Summer Legislative Update](#)

July 23-24: [UP North Summit](#)

July 31: [Creating a Vision for Your Township](#) & [Linking with the Community](#)

Aug 1: [Strategic Planning for Townships](#)

**Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning:**

Aug. 14: [Frankenmuth](#)

Aug. 21: [Lawrence](#)

Aug. 28: [Cadillac](#)

### MTA QUICK LINKS

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## Bills modifying drain code pass the House

Three bills were approved by the House this week that would amend the drain code impacting assessment limits, drainage district boundary revisions and compensation for drainage board and board of determination members. [House Bill 5188](#) would increase the amount—\$5,000 to \$10,000 per mile or fraction of a mile of the drain—a drain commissioner or drainage board can spend on maintenance and repairs without being subject to petition requirements under the drain code. [HB 5189](#) modifies the procedures to revise the boundaries of a drainage district to add land from one or more counties, and [HB 5190](#) changes the compensation provisions. MTA opposed the three bills, which now move to the Senate for consideration.

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



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## Master plans may soon be required to include housing provisions

Township planning commissions could soon be required to consider local housing needs in developing or revising a master plan under legislation approved by the House this week. [House Bill 5557](#), sponsored by Rep. Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids), would also require the commission to be representative of the local unit of government's housing interests. The bill will be next considered by the Senate.

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## Increase in weight limits for electric trucks and combustion engine trucks

Both electric trucks and gas-powered trucks with a gross weight of up to 82,000 pounds would be allowed to exceed the applicable axle loading and weight load maximums by up to 2,000 pounds for all axles of the truck. [Senate Bill 501](#), sponsored by Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Chtr. Twp.), increases the limit for gas-powered trucks from 80,000 to 82,000 pounds and provides the same weight allowable for electric trucks. After approval by both chambers, SB 501 now goes to the governor for signature.

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## Homeowners associations soon to be prohibited from banning solar projects

Homeowners associations (HOAs) will soon be prohibited from banning solar energy projects and certain energy modifications for their property owners under a bill that received final legislative approval this week. [House Bill 5028](#), sponsored by Rep. Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton Chtr. Twp.), would create a new act



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

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

\* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

\* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

\* [Hartleb Agency](#)

\* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



to declare certain provisions of an HOA agreement invalid and unenforceable if they prohibit the ability of an association member to install certain energy-saving improvements or modifications. HOAs would also be required to adopt a policy statement on solar energy that complies with requirements in the bill. HB 5028 now goes to the governor, who is expected to sign it.

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### Join MIHI grants update webinar

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office will [host a webinar on June 27 at 3 p.m.](#) to share news and updates regarding the status of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Grants. Join the event for news on the progress of these grants, which aim to help bring universal availability and access to broadband for all Michiganders.

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### Record number of local units participate in MI Green Communities Challenge

A record [63 Michigan local governments](#) have been recognized for their sustainability efforts and environmental leadership through their participation in the Michigan Green Communities (MGC) Challenge, in which MTA is a partner. This year's participants included 11 townships, 43 cities, seven counties and two villages. Communities are awarded bronze, silver, gold or platinum seals of achievement, which reflect leadership in areas such as energy efficiency, climate adaptation and resilience, recycling, environmental justice and more. MGC is a free program open to all local governments in the state and provides networking, benchmarking and technical assistance to guide communities in their work to improve their sustainability efforts and adapt to our changing climate.

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## MDOT seeks input from vulnerable road users

Residents who enjoy walking, biking or rolling by nonmotorized forms of transportation on public roads can share their



insights through Aug. 18 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), which is conducting a vulnerable road user safety assessment through a 15-question [survey](#). MDOT is also hosting open houses throughout the state in the coming weeks, including July 2 at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, and July 3 at both the Mackinaw City and St. Ignace Welcome Centers. MDOT representatives will be at these locations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information and future open houses.

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## Reminders from BOE

**Virtual makeup session for election training. If you missed the in-person training for your area,** the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) has scheduled a virtual Election Cycle Preparation Training for Thursday, June 27, at 11:30 a.m. This training is a mandatory component of required 2024-25 continuing education for election administrators and is open to all clerks and deputy clerks. [Sign up for one of the remaining session in eLearning.](#)

**Other training opportunities.** BOE is offering virtual early voting electronic pollbook training July 9-15. The two-hour sessions are scheduled for July 9 and 11 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., July 10 at 4 p.m., July 12 at noon and July 15 at 10 a.m.

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## MTA Summer Legislative Update brings all the hottest news in a one-hour webinar

Join MTA on July 10 as we dive into the latest news from the Capitol. MTA's Government Relations team will share the scoop on what's new in siting for renewable energy facilities, updates on the state budget—and impacts to your township, proposed election changes, what's at stake in the November election and what's on the horizon. Bring your thirst for knowledge for this refreshing one-hour update and stay ahead of the legislative tide! [Click here to register online now.](#)

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## Federal update for week of June 17

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

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