

June 6, 2025

Bills would expand definition of emergency vehicles

Two bills were passed by the House this week to allow emergency response vehicles to arrive safely and sooner where needed. [House Bill 4301](#),



sponsored by Rep. Brian BeGole (R-Perry Twp.), would allow an authorized emergency vehicle owned by the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and operated as part of an emergency response to be equipped with flashing, rotating or oscillating emergency lights. [HB 4302](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike McFall (D-Hazel Park), would exempt a Michigan MABAS employee or member who meets the applicable driver training standards for firefighters and who is operating an authorized emergency vehicle from provisions related to commercial vehicle driving skills tests and endorsements. MABAS is a statewide mutual aid agreement that covers liability and authority to receive and provide mutual aid to other fire departments that have signed the MABAS agreement; these resources come from across the state or in the neighboring community. The bills now move to the Senate for consideration.

Bill to require transparency on state enhancement grants

Townships and others seeking an appropriated enhancement grant would have specific information publicly disclosed on the state's website under [House Bill 4420](#), which passed the House unanimously this week. An enhancement grant is an appropriation that authorizes a specific funding amount for a grant, loan, contract, incentive or expenditure to a specific person, local unit of government, organization, or project or activity in a local unit of government, excluding formula-driven or competitive award process. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Kunse (R-Clare), is intended to provide greater transparency and would require the sponsoring legislator of the enhancement grant to provide the state Department of Technology, Management and Budget a public disclosure by March 29 of the year that the grant is being considered for an appropriation. The bill will next be considered by the Senate.

'Fiscally Ready Communities' webinar explores capital project planning

[Register today](#) for the state Department of Treasury's next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, "Nuts and Bolts: Fees, Fines, Purchasing and Receipting," on June 16 at 2 p.m. The webinar will include a deep dive into best practices related to fees, fines,

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June 11: [Preventing Chaos: How to Manage Records](#)

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

June 10: Jackson
June 17: Marquette
June 18: Gaylord
June 24: Mt. Pleasant

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

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purchasing, receipting and more. It will cover what they are, why such policies are necessary, how they contribute to local fiscal health, and how to get started on implementation. Questions can be submitted in advance to TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov, with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

Input from local officials sought on state revolving funds

Township officials and other municipal leaders engage and provide recommended changes to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) scoring criteria for the state's [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) and [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#). The department reviews and updates the scoring criteria every three years to match community needs across the state. On June 23 and 24, EGLE is hosting virtual public listening sessions to review current scoring criteria and receive recommendations for changes that will be implemented for the following three fiscal years, 2027 through 2029. Join the virtual [CWSRF listening session](#) on June 23 at 1 p.m. or the [DWSRF listening session](#) on June 24 at 1 p.m.; for those unable to participate, written comments can be emailed to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov. Recordings of the listening sessions will be uploaded on the [new scoring criteria webpage](#).

Additionally, local elected leaders, planning agency representatives, watershed management leaders and drain commissioners are asked to share their stormwater infrastructure priorities and water infrastructure needs via a brief [survey](#). This information will assist EGLE in updating the [State Revolving Fund \(SRF\)](#) by identifying upcoming water infrastructure needs and help shape the future of the SRF.

Public comment sought on Rural Development Fund Grant Program

Officials can submit public comments for the [Rural Development Fund Grant Program](#) through July 3 to help the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) ensure the program continues to strengthen infrastructure, promote sustainable land-based industries, and deliver new jobs in rural communities. Eligible counties include those with a population no greater than 70,000 residents or metropolitan statistical areas. Email comments to MDA-Grants@Michigan.gov, with the subject line "Rural Development Public Comment." The feedback collected will inform program improvements and suggested changes that could be made to program guidelines.

Three Free weekend: Fishing, ORV, state park access without a permit

On June 7-8, residents and visitors can use the "[Three Free](#)" weekend, during which admission to Michigan's state parks, public access boating sites and other state Department of Natural Resources lands is free, and [off-road vehicles](#) (ORV) and [fishing](#) will not require a license. All other fishing, trail and park rules still apply.



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Electronic return of ballots for military voters

Based on the ability of members of the military to return their absent voter (AV) ballots electronically



using their U.S. Department of Defense Common Access Card (CAC) signature beginning Sept. 1, 2025, there are changes the [AV application](#). Military voters will not be able to attach their CAC signature to an Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) application and those who wish to use electronic return will be redirected to the .pdf AV application online; a voter who submits an application via MVIC has opted out of electronic return. Please note that the AV application issued out of the Qualified Voter File or produced by a print vendor will likewise not include the CAC signature field because the application will need to be filled out in Adobe Reader. Active military members who wish to return their ballot electronically should be directed to the [fillable .pdf AV application online](#).

Battery safety, workplace mental health webinars

- **Lithium-ion battery safety**—Proper disposal of batteries is a necessity for fire safety, critical materials recovery and public health. A Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy [webinar](#), held June 10 at 11 a.m. as part of their environmental emergency preparedness and response [series](#), will address safe recycling practices for lithium-ion batteries and tips for raising public awareness to the importance of safe use and disposal.
- **Mental health in the workplace**—The final [webinar](#) of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's mental health in the workplace series, will be held June 12 at 2 p.m., focusing on actionable strategies for integrating mental health and well-being into workplace culture through best-practice policies and initiatives. Recordings of [Episode 1: The Reality of Mental Health at Work](#) and [Episode 2: Leaders lead – Foster a Culture of Support](#) are available.

Federal updates for week of June 3

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

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