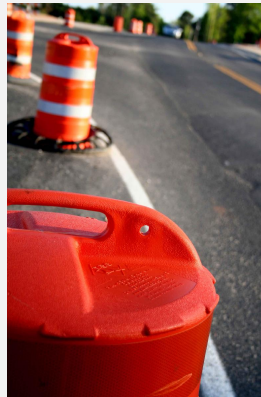


March 21, 2025

House passes \$3.1 billion road funding plan

A package of nine bills passed the House this week to put \$3.1 billion of existing state resources into Michigan roads. The plan would infuse over \$3 billion annually in transportation funding by removing the sales and use taxes currently paid at the pump and increasing the fuel tax by 20 cents, providing a \$1 billion increase for roads with a revenue-neutral change at the pump. The package would also utilize \$2.2 billion in revenue from the corporate income tax (CIT) and dedicate 90% of these funds to local roads and 10% to the State Trunkline Fund. The proposal also creates the Neighborhood Road Fund (NRF) within Public Act 51 of 1951.



To offset an approximately \$95 million loss in constitutional revenue sharing funds for townships, cities and villages with the removal of the sales tax at the pump, MTA was able to protect local funds with a \$95 million earmark to hold locals harmless (no loss in funding). Additionally, under the NRF, \$100 million would be allocated for five years (total of \$500 million) for the repair of closed, restricted and critical bridges as determined by the Local Bridge Advisory Board—without a local match. Further, the NRF would require \$120 million annually to be used by a county road agency only for the preservation, maintenance, routine maintenance and preventative maintenance of the county local road system without any match from a township.

MTA supported seven of the nine bills in the package after securing both the elimination of a match on the \$120 million for local (nonprimary) roads and \$100 million for bridge repair, and the earmark of \$95 million to ensure townships will not experience revenue loss due to the redirect of the sales tax at the pump.

"Sustainable road funding is a key priority for our members, and the House-passed legislation is significant progress toward a road funding solution," said Neil Sheridan, MTA executive director. "The creation and funding of a Neighborhood Road Fund in [House Bill 4230](#) will ensure that local roads and bridges in our communities—some of which have not seen repairs in years—will benefit from dedicated funds without requiring additional dollars from townships."

Passage of the bills is the first step in the process as they now move to the Senate as the Legislature and governor continue to work on this issue.

[Updated Earned Sick Time Act FAQs](#)

INTRODUCTION TO PLANNING & ZONING
An evening workshop exploring key elements of an effective planning & zoning program

FROM 5 to 8 P.M.
MAY 7 | FRANKENMUTH
MAY 21 | GAYLORD
MAY 28 | KALAMAZOO

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!](#)

Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

April 16: [Cloud Chronicles: Digital Records Management](#)

March 31-April 3: [Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#)

[Pre-Conference sessions:](#)

- ** [Assessing Uniqueness: Best Practices for Assessment](#)
- ** [Board Authorities, Responsibilities and Roles](#)
- ** [Township Finances](#)
- ** [Legal Institute for Township Attorneys](#)

[Introduction to Planning and Zoning:](#)

May 7: [Frankenmuth](#)
May 21: [Gaylord](#)
May 28: [Kalamazoo](#)

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)
[Training](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Community Connection](#)
[Webcasts](#)
[Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
[NATaT](#)

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) this week updated their [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding the [Earned Sick Time Act](#). These updates are to assist in providing additional clarity on provisions of the law and offer guidance on how employers and employees can navigate its implementation. Additional resources are available on [LEO's ESTA webpage](#).



Bill to require drain special assessment on DNR lands

MTA supported legislation this week to allow drain special assessments on lands owned or controlled by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Currently, all state owned lands (except state highways) are exempt from such assessments. [House Bill 4118](#), sponsored by Rep. Bill Schuette (R-Midland) and approved by committee this week, would remove DNR lands from the current exemption and require the state to pay the cost of construction of a drain to be levied on lands owned or controlled by the DNR. The bill will be considered by the full House when they return to session in April.

House approves transfer of ownership of certain property without uncapping

Legislation to modify the exemption definition of transfer of ownership for transfers of residential real property to a previous owner's immediate family members was approved by the House this week. Currently, if there is a transfer of ownership, the property's taxable value is "uncapped" but exemptions exclude a transfer of residential real property to the previous owner's (or their spouse's) mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson or granddaughter, as long as the property is not used for commercial purposes after the transfer. [House Bill 4014](#), sponsored by Rep. Brad Slagh (R-Zeeland Chtr. Twp.), would add an exemption that includes transfers to a previous owner's (or their spouse's) grandmother or grandfather and adds these individuals to those eligible for the exemption in transfers involving a trust, as described above. HB 4014 also would provide that the above exemptions apply to a transfer to the previous owner's (or their spouse's) brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson or granddaughter and that individual's spouse, if the transfer occurred on or after Dec. 31, 2021. Similarly, for a transfer to a trust, the designation of the previous owner's (or their spouse's) brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson or granddaughter as a sole beneficiary would include a designation of that individual and their spouse made on or after Dec. 31, 2021. The bill was amended to include ladybird trusts. The bill moves to a Senate committee for further consideration.

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* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



Increase in land splits approved by committee

The first 10 acres of a parent parcel or tract of land could soon be increased from four to 10 parcels under [House Bill 4081](#), sponsored by Rep. Jay DeBoyer (R-Clay Twp.). The bill, approved by a committee this week, would amend the Land Division Act to increase the number of parcels that can be platted (i.e., divided from a single tract of land). Currently, the act allows the first 10 acres of a parent tract of land to be divided into up to four smaller parcels. Under HB 4081, the first 10 acres of a parent tract could be divided into up to 10 parcels. The bill also includes a provision from MTA allowing municipalities or counties that have the authority to approve or reject a proposed land division under the act to adopt ordinances allowing tracts of land to be partitioned into a greater number of parcels than otherwise allowed by the act. MTA also worked to include language that would provide local units one year to review their ordinances and make any necessary changes before the measure takes effect, if passed. The full House will consider the bill in April. Similar legislation was also approved by the Senate last week, [Senate Bill 23](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), with a July 1, 2026, effective date.

// 2025 MTA CONFERENCE SESSION



Access Granted:

What You Need to Know About the New ADA Website Requirements



DEVOS PLACE,
GRAND RAPIDS



TUESDAY, 4/1/2025
1:00PM - 2:15PM



Kyle Shumaker
Shumaker Tech Group



Michael Bila
Bauckham, Thall, Seeber,
Kaufman & Koches P.C.

Bill would allow appointed members who are disabled to participate remotely

Disabled individuals who serve as an **appointed member** of a public body could soon be permitted to participate remotely if they request to do so. [Senate Bill 129](#), sponsored by Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), defines disability as “a determinable physical or mental characteristic” that may result from disease, injury, congenital condition of birth or functional disorder, if the characteristic substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities. Participating would include discussing, debating and voting. The bill was approved by a Senate committee this week and will be considered when the Senate returns to session in April. SB 129 is identical to legislation approved by the Senate last session.

Judicial Protection Act passed Senate

Townships and other public bodies would be required to not publicly post, display or release under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request certain personal identifying information concerning a judge or certain family members under legislation approved by the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 82](#), sponsored by Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), would create the Judicial Protection Act to allow judges to submit a written request that a public body not publicly post or display certain information and to require compliance with such a request. If a request were made

and not complied with, the judge could go to court to compel compliance and recover court costs and attorney fees from the public body. The bill moves to the House for consideration.

Senate approves indigent defense changes

New requirements related to indigent defense for children accused of crimes were approved this week by the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 81](#), sponsored by Sen. Sue Shink (D-Northfield Twp.), would clarify children accused of crimes qualify for indigent defense services and amend the formula that determines the share of costs covered by the local funding agency. Under the bill, the local share formula calculation would have to include the average annual expenditure for indigent youth defense services in the three fiscal years preceding the bill's effective date. Previously, only the average expenditure on adult indigent defense services was used to calculate the local share. In the years when the Consumer Price Index rises, the local share would have to be adjusted and compounded annually by that number or by 3%, whichever is less. Nineteen townships assist in operating or funding local district courts. The bill moves to the House for consideration.

New process announced to reserve CDBG funds through MI Neighborhood

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) announced a new streamlined process to reserve Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The CDBG program, funded through MI Neighborhood, is expanding eligible activities and increasing the maximum funding amount a unit of local government can request up to \$1.5 million. Letters of Intent (LOI), the first step of the process to reserve funding, are now being accepted for proposals that meet CDBG housing objectives. CDBG funds are available to [non-entitlement units of general local government](#)—townships, cities, villages or counties not currently receiving a direct allocation of CDBG funds. Submit a LOI form via the [MI Neighborhood CDBG webpage](#) or mail (overnight mail only) to: MSHDA NDD, 735 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912. **All submissions must be date stamped/submitted before 11:59 p.m. April 17.** If approved, grantees will receive a reservation memo reserving funds, as a formal application and CDBG compliance steps are completed.

Email MSHDA-CDBG@michigan.gov with questions. A Q&A session will be held April 3 at 10 a.m. [Join the meeting](#) through Teams (Meeting ID: 265 746 348 873; Passcode: zC6gg9Mx).

Scrap tire cleanup grant available

Local governments can submit applications for grants from the state [Scrap Tire Regulatory Fund](#) through April 18. Funds are available for both community cleanup events organized by local governments and efforts on private land and historic tire dumping sites. Grants must be used for the



cleanup or collection of abandoned scrap tires and scrap tire collection sites.

New 10-digit phone dialing requirement coming for 313 area code

Due to the 313 area code running low on phone numbers for new customers, telephone service providers may issue a new overlay area code, 679, to new phone customers starting Nov. 7, 2025. When that area code goes into effect, all local calls within the 313 area code will require 10-digit dialing. A six-month “permissive dialing” period will begin on April 7, to give customers time to get used to the new dialing requirement. During this period, local calls can be made with either seven or 10 digits, and all calls that are local will continue to be local even though you dial 10 digits. Beginning on Oct. 7, 2025, all local calls within the 313 area code footprint must use 10 digits, including the area code. Calls placed only using seven digits will not be completed. For additional information, contact your local telephone service provider or visit the [Michigan Public Service Commission website](#).

Upcoming EGLE webinars: floodplain management, remediation and risk management

The state Department Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is hosting two upcoming webinars of interest to townships:

Floodplain management. Being proactive in floodplain management is essential to minimizing the impact of natural disasters. Part of EGLE's Local Leaders Webinar Series, [Floodplains 101](#), scheduled for April 15 at 10 a.m., will offer information about floodplains and floodplain management, and cover flood provisions in Michigan Building Codes, activities requiring a permit, Elevation Certificates, and EGLE's floodplain authority found in state regulations.

Remediation and risk management. EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division is preparing a guidance document related to incoming changes to corrective actions required under Part 213 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), which relates to underground storage tanks. The final two [webinars](#) in a four-part series covering the Michigan-specific risk-based corrective action process are scheduled for April 7 and April 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Reminders for clerks

Training for May election: The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is offering 30-45 minute lunchtime virtual sessions covering a host of specialized election tasks before the May 6 election. Sign-ups and recordings of past sessions are available on the bureau's [eLearning Center](#). In-person election official accreditation course dates will be posted in eLearning once finalized.

Upcoming May 6 election deadlines:

March 22: Deadline to issue ballots requested by military and overseas voters (MOVE). The process for issuing a MOVE ballot electronically to voters has been updated in the Qualified Voter File (QVF) and will utilize a portal that more closely resembles the

process of issuing an accessible ballot.

March 27: Absent voter (AV) ballots must be available for issuance to voters and secure drop boxes must be accessible 24 hours each day.

April 1: Daily collection of election materials from AV drop boxes is required on each day the clerk's office is open. All ballots and applications from a drop box must be transported in an approved ballot container and immediately returned to the clerk's office, unless the person collecting the ballots is travelling to another drop box.

April 7: Deadline for clerks to post and enter into the QVF hours the clerk's office will be open on the Saturday or Sunday (or both) immediately before the election, and any additional hours and locations, to issue and receive AV ballots.

Get 50% off MTA online training with our March sale

Here at MTA, we're as proud of our [online learning](#) as we are of your dedication to your township. To help you get the education you need, whenever (and wherever!) you need it, we



are offering half-off nearly all on-demand webcasts throughout the month of March! Choose from more than 75 courses on dozens of topics, all designed specifically for township officials. Visit <https://learn.michigantownships.org> to get started; use discount code March2025 at checkout to get the deal.

Updated NATaT Special Report

The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) continues to closely track executive actions on the federal level of importance to local communities and updated its [Special Report Trump Administration Executive Action-Updated-3.20.25](#) this week.

Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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