

Dec. 6, 2024

## Local governments urge enactment of Revenue Sharing Trust Fund

Township, city and county officials joined Reps. Amos O’Neal (D-Saginaw) and Mark Tisdell (R-Rochester Hills) on Tuesday in support of the passage of House Bills [4274](#) and [4275](#). 2024 MTA President **Connie Cargill, Golden Township** (Oceana Co.) treasurer, spoke at the press conference with the bill sponsors and other local officials, seeking sustainable funding that will benefit our communities by allocating resources in a secure and predictable manner. Cargill shared the fact the 2024-2025 state budget marked the first time in nearly two decades that all local governments receive statutory revenue sharing, stating, “Establishing a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund ensures dedicated, reliable funding for all Michigan local governments, and helps us to better budget and plan for the future, address local needs, and serve and protect our communities and our residents.” More than 500 letters from township, city and county officials were also submitted the same day to the governor, asking for action on a permanent revenue sharing funding stream. Thank you to those members who submitted a letter in support of HBs 4274 and 4275.



Plante Moran Cresa is now

Comprehensive real estate solutions.

LEARN MORE

MOBILE FRIENDLY  
**Web Design**

STG

## MTA to file *amicus* brief in PA 233 lawsuit

MTA’s Legal Defense Fund has approved filing an *amicus curiae* brief in a lawsuit filed challenging the Michigan Public Service Commission’s order implementing Public Act 233 of 2023, which shifted siting of utility-scale renewable energy facilities. Nearly 80 townships, along with several counties, have jointly filed an appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals contesting certain aspects of the MPSC order. The appeal is currently pending, and no court orders have been issued. MTA advises you to consult with your township legal counsel to discuss the litigation further.

## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

Dec. 13: [Legislative Wrap-up](#)

[New Officials Training](#)

Dec. 10: [Muskegon](#)

Dec. 11: [Lansing](#)

Dec. 12: [Kalamazoo](#)

Dec. 17: [Frankenmuth](#)

Dec. 18: [Hale](#)

Dec. 19: [Thompsonville](#)

Jan. 6: [Houghton](#)

Jan. 7: [Harris](#)

Jan. 8: [Sault Ste. Marie](#)

Jan. 14: [Port Huron](#)

Jan. 15: [Gaylord](#)

Jan. 16: [Mt. Pleasant](#)

Jan. 17: [Ann Arbor](#)

[Online version](#)

IN PERSON & ONLINE TRAINING WITH MTA

# BOARD OF REVIEW

CHOOSE FROM PA 660 OR AN ADVANCED CLASS

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

## Zoning bills impact local authority

Several bills, opposed by MTA, were reported this week that create a one-size-fits-all approach on zoning and continue the erosion of local control. [House Bill 6095](#), sponsored by Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids), would prohibit a zoning ordinance from requiring more than 1.5 parking spaces per dwelling unit for residential property. [HB 6096](#) would require local units to have a form listing all required studies or documents at the time of an application and restrict when any additional study could be required. [HB 6097](#) would require that a residential duplex be a permitted use in any single-family residence district wholly or partly located within or adjacent to a metropolitan statistical area. MTA testified in opposition to all of the bills, which will likely be considered by the House next week. MTA encourages members to share their concerns and opposition with [your state representative](#).

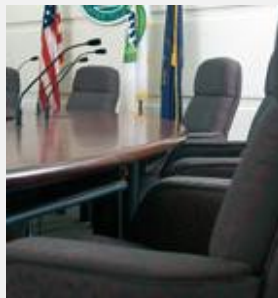
## Minimum staffing bill moves to Senate

Legislation to require minimum staffing levels be subject to collective bargaining between the public employer and the representative of its police and fire department employees was reported by the Senate Labor Committee on Thursday. [Senate Bill 1167](#), sponsored by Sen. Veronica Klinefelt (D-Eastpointe), 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. Minimum staffing levels for police and fire departments would be considered a condition of employment with respect to a bargaining representative's collective bargaining responsibilities. MTA opposes SB 1167, which is expected to be considered by the full Senate next week. Please share with [your state senator](#) the fiscal impact this bill will have on your community and urge them to vote NO on Senate Bill 1167.

## OMA measure would expand allowed reasons for closed session

Townships and other public bodies could soon have expanded options for holding a closed session. [Senate Bill 1023](#), sponsored by Sen. Veronica Klinefelt (D-Eastpointe) and supported by MTA, passed the Senate this week.

The measure would permit a public body to hold a closed session to consult with its attorney on the attorney's legal opinion and to consider a demand made of the public body. While the current law permits public bodies to meet in closed sessions for specified reasons, it does not permit the public body to meet in closed sessions to discuss *potential* litigation or demands made of the body without the presence of an attorney. The bill will next be considered by the House.



## Radioactive waste management changes

Legislation to require the state to update a comprehensive state hazardous and radioactive waste management plan and to put a moratorium on licenses and permits received support this week in committee. [Senate Bill 1052](#), sponsored by Sen. Darrin Camilleri

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2025 MTA CAPITAL  
CONFERENCE**  
MARCH 4  
LANSING CENTER



### MTA QUICK LINKS

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

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



[www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes](http://www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes)



[www.theparplan.com](http://www.theparplan.com)



[www.mersofmich.com](http://www.mersofmich.com)

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

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

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

\* [Foster Swift Collins &  
Smith, PC](#)

(D-Brownstown Chtr. Twp.) and supported by MTA, would also prohibit further disposal in the state of technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM), which are natural radioactive materials whose concentrations have been increased by human activity. Finally, the bill would require certain classes of injection wells to secure surety bonds for reclamation purposes. Several township supervisors testified in support of the bill, which is expected to receive Senate approval next week.

[\\* Hartleb Agency](#)

[\\* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

[\\* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

**Want to Edit  
Your Website?  
You can with  
Civic Clarity!**

[Learn More](#)



## Increase in unemployment benefits approved by Senate

Unemployed individuals could soon see a gradual increase in maximum benefits, increasing from \$362 to \$614 weekly, under a bill passed by the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 40](#), sponsored by Sen. Paul Wojno, (D-Warren), would increase to \$446 maximum per week in 2025, \$530 in 2026 and \$614 in 2027. The bill would also extend the maximum timeline for receiving benefits from 20 to 26 weeks. The bill was approved by both the Senate Labor Committee and the full Senate on Dec. 5; the bill now moves to the House for action.

## Recreation passport changes include grants for local parks, free admission for veterans

Three bills making changes to the state parks recreation passport were approved this week by the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation. [House Bill 5428](#) would switch recreation passport registration from an opt-in to an opt-out program. With the additional revenue this change is expected to generate, [HB 5873](#) modifies the existing distribution formula to increase grants to local parks. Once statewide participation in the recreation passport program reaches 55%, the share of revenue allocated to grants for local parks will rise from 10 to 20%, significantly increasing the amount and size of grants available. Finally, [HB 6219](#) would grant veterans and actively serving service members free admission to state parks in appreciation for their service. All three bills await a vote before the full House.



## Bill expands eligibility for workers' compensation benefits to part-time fire and police employees

Part-time and volunteer members of fire and police departments

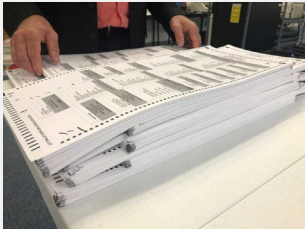
would be eligible for workers' compensation benefits currently only available to full-time firefighters and police officers, under [House Bill 4729](#), sponsored by Rep. Will Snyder (D-Muskegon). The bill would extend the personal injury coverage for respiratory and heart disease while the individual is in active service to these part-time and volunteer employees. MTA expressed its opposition to the bills in the House Labor Committee, but the bill was reported and now heads to the full House.

---

## Bill increasing public employer health care contribution limits heads to House floor

Townships would be required to pay a greater share of their employees' health care costs under a bill opposed by MTA that passed the House Labor Committee this week. Under current law, employers can choose between an inflation-adjusted capped contribution or a maximum 80% contribution. [House Bill 6058](#), sponsored by Rep. Mai Xiong (D-Warren), would increase the capped contribution amounts by approximately 7% and adjust each year by the rate of inflation or 3%, whichever is greater; currently, the inflation rate is the only factor. For those employers that choose to pay the percentage amount, they would have to pay at least 80% of those costs. Eighty percent would become a floor instead of a ceiling as is in current law. The bill moves to the full House.

---



## Petition reform bills pass Senate committee

Bills to modify the process for petitions were reported from the Senate Elections and Ethics Committee this week. [Senate Bill 1108](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss

(D-Southfield), would require an individual hired to circulate petitions to be paid an hourly rate as opposed to a fixed rate or an amount per signature. [SB 1109](#), also sponsored by Sen. Moss, would require a petition circulator to read aloud or to point out the petition summary before allowing the individual to sign the petition. [SB 1110](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), would change the law regarding individuals who sign a petition more than once. Under current law, if it is discovered that an individual has signed the same petition more than once, none of the signatures are counted. SB 1110 would allow one signature to count. The bills now move to the full Senate for further consideration.

---

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE

**Spirit of**  
**MTA**  
AWARD



**CLICK HERE TO  
LEARN MORE!**

---

## Comprehensive police reform package reported

Both law enforcement agencies and individual officers would be affected by an 11-bill police reform package that has been years in the making. The bills were reported this week by the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and will move to the Senate floor for further consideration:

- [Senate Bill 1091](#) would require law enforcement agencies to adopt a “use-of-force” policy, which must be regularly updated and publicly posted.
  - [SB 1092](#) would establish training standards in deescalation techniques, implicit bias and crisis intervention. Beginning next July, any person seeking to become a law enforcement officer would need to complete the training. By July 2026, already licensed law enforcement officers would need to have completed the training. Each law enforcement agency would need to adopt a written policy requiring its officers to use deescalation techniques.
  - [SB 1093](#) would require law enforcement agencies to adopt a written “duty to intervene” policy.
  - [SB 1094](#) would limit the use of so-called “no knock” warrants. When executing a search warrant, law enforcement officers would need to announce their identity and purpose and wait a reasonable period before attempting to use forcible entry. There are certain exceptions that would not require announcing and waiting, and they must be included in the request for the warrant if they are known to the officer. The bill also would limit the time when executing a warrant without announcing is permitted unless it is included in the warrant.
  - [SBs 1095](#) and [1096](#) prescribe penalties for altering, not activating or deactivating a body camera.
  - [SB 1097](#) would require law enforcement agencies to include in a separation of service record any investigations or disciplinary records, and the records would need to be provided to any law enforcement agency where the officer may apply.
  - [SB 1098](#) would amend the “employee-right-to-know” act so that a law enforcement agency would not be required to delete disciplinary actions from a personnel record when provided to a third party.
  - [SB 1099](#) would modify certain licensure requirements for law enforcement officers. A law enforcement agency would have to consider a separation of service record of a previously employed officer and attest to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) that the individual met licensing requirements. It would allow a license to lapse if an officer did not meet continuing education requirements and would require employing agencies to report to MCOLES an officer who was the subject of certain criminal charges, the imposition of a personal protective order or an extreme risk protection order, and a conviction prohibiting an individual from handling a firearm. The commission would have to revoke an officer’s license if the individual were convicted of a misdemeanor involving domestic violence.
  - [SB 1100](#) would amend definition of “involuntary statement” to not include an intentional false statement.
  - [SB 1101](#) would allow an individual who makes a misconduct complaint against a law enforcement officer to remain anonymous upon request.
-

## **Bills expanding EGLE’s rulemaking authority on water quality advance**

Legislation approved by a House committee this week would provide the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) authority to promulgate rules under the Water Resources Protection provision of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Since 2006, EGLE has been prohibited from promulgating rules regarding water resources because of a debate and subsequent agreement regarding water withdrawals by Ice Mountain Water. Two identical bills, [Senate Bill 663](#), sponsored by Sen. Sue Shink (D-Northfield Twp.), and [House Bill 5205](#), sponsored by Rep. Emily Dievendorf (D-Lansing), would remove this prohibition, transferring the power back to EGLE. While it is uncertain what rules EGLE would change, significant concern exists that floodplain maps could be redrawn, creating increased costs and challenges for individuals and communities. SB 663 previously passed the full Senate and accompanies HB 5205 for consideration by the full House. MTA opposes both bills.

---

### **Tell us your advice for new officials!**

With the new township term of office underway, MTA is offering training, resources and information to help newly elected officials learn all they need to know as they begin



serving their community. Equally valuable (if not more!) is insights and advice from YOU—our experienced township leaders. Our January issue of *Township Focus* will include a “Welcome to Township Government,” and we would like to include your advice for newly elected officials, or things you’d wish you’d known when you first started. All words of wisdom are welcome! Please email your comments to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org), along with your name, township (and county), and title. Please share your comments by Friday, Dec. 13. Thank you for sharing your insights with our new township officials!

---

### **2025 threshold for publishing minutes set at \$114 million for general law townships**

The 2025 taxable value threshold for exempting general law townships from the requirement to publish minutes has increased to \$114 million. The 2024 rate was \$110 million. The rate is determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury’s Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, which is required to determine the adjusted amount each year. Public Act 465 of 1996 exempts general law townships with a taxable value under a threshold from the requirement to publish township board meeting minutes, or a synopsis of the proceedings, within 21 days after the meeting. According to PA 465, the limit must be adjusted annually for inflation each Jan. 1 and rounded to the next million. A [“Just the Facts! Taking Township Minutes” MTA resource toolkit](#) includes legal requirements for taking minutes, suggested format and style for minutes, and a sample minutes synopsis.

---

### **ARPA funds must be obligated by end of**

## December

Townships have **until Dec. 31, 2024**, to obligate their allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. If your township has not fully obligated the money, you should do so as soon as possible to meet the deadline. According to the state Department of Treasury, townships that received ARPA funds should have been sent two email notices from U.S. Treasury—the first sent on or about Nov. 14 and the second sent on or about Nov. 20. These two notices provided detailed requirement information. It is suggested that you review them as soon as possible. Townships may still choose the standard allocation option, which allows up to \$10 million to be used for general government services. For additional resources, visit [MTA's "ARPA Resources and Updates" webpage](#) or [read a memo from state Treasury here](#).

---

## Upcoming webinars of interest to townships

**Cybersecurity awareness**—A hybrid Dec. 10 "Cybersecurity Awareness Lunch and Learn Session" will share how to use the Michigan Cyber Grant to fund township security needs, and how to ensure your network is resilient from cyber threats. The in-person and online event, which begins at 12:30 p.m. takes place at Comcast Cinema, 41112 Concept Dr., in Plymouth. [RSVP today](#). (In-person attendees should RSVP today, Dec. 6, for lunch.)

**Fiscally Ready Communities**—[Register now](#) for the state Department of Treasury's next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, "From Fundamentals to Best Practices. Held Dec. 12 at 10 a.m., the webinar will discuss reconciling a bank account, reading and interpreting government financial statements, audit prep, completing and filing an F-65 report, remitting taxes timely, and crafting an effective audit finding corrective action plan. Receive resources to support best practice implementation and assess your township's fiscal health. Send questions to [TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov), with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

**Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response**—A Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) [webinar](#), on Dec. 16 at 1 p.m., aims to help local governments increase their understanding of their responsibilities and response actions to environmental incidents and emergencies like fires, floods, dam failures and oil spills, and will discuss U.S. EPA Emergency Response site stabilization and removal activities at a recent fire site in Clinton Charter Township (Macomb Co.).

**Renewable energy siting**—Recordings are available of EGLE's Renewable Energy Academy (REA) workshops to help prepare for the new large-scale renewable energy siting landscape: [Part 1—Introduction to Renewable Energy](#) focuses on the basics of utility-scale renewables; [Part 2—Public Act 233: The Four Pathways](#) provides an in-depth exploration of the four permitting pathways local governments should consider; and [Part 3—Workable Zoning Ordinances](#) dives into strategies to develop effective renewable energy ordinances. Further resources and future workshop offerings for each stage of PA 233 implementation are available on the [REA website](#).

---

**Read the December issue of**

## **Township Focus—online now**

Your [December issue of Township Focus](#) can be read online now! Read this month's cover story, *Renewable energy in Michigan*, for an update on the MPSC's PA 233 implementation order on siting for utility-scale renewable energy facilities. The feature story, *Connecting your community: The power of broadband and the BEAD program*, shares more on this federal funding and how townships can help ensure the program works well in your community and for your residents. "Hello, MTA ... ?" discusses township deputies while "Financial Forum" explains GASB Statement 101 and reporting compensated absences.



---

### **Federal update for week of Dec. 3**

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

---

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!