

THE REGULATORS

Bills would wrest wetlands oversight away from DEQ

Michigan's regulatory environment could become less burdensome and its cost to taxpayers reduced under either of two proposed laws recently introduced in the Michigan Legislature. Senate Bill 1112, sponsored by Sen. Roger Kahn, R-Saginaw, and House Bill 4901, sponsored by Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Midland, would strip the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality of its authority to authorize building

permits near wetlands. The practical effect of both bills would be to return oversight of Michigan wetlands to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Federal rather than state oversight is the norm in all but Michigan and New Jersey, according to Russ Harding, director of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's Property Rights Network and a former director of the Michigan DEQ. Harding as-

See "Regulators," Page 4



"Yessir, state regulations say no one can build, drive or walk on your property ... but otherwise, do what you like! It's a free country!"

©2006 Email: hpayne@detnews.com

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fenton, MI
Permit # 1776

INSIDE THE ISSUE



Grab Bag Government



Bus Fare Fair?



Your Legislators

EXTRA CREDIT

2008 budget battle ends, new spending plots continue

With gross spending approved at \$42.8 billion, the fiscal 2008 state budget is the largest in Michigan government history (see "The Year of Living Expensively," January/February, 2008 Michigan Capitol Confidential.) But a sample of recent legislative actions indicates that lawmakers are poised to break this record yet again.

Left unfinished in the fiscal 2008 budget completed last fall was the allocation of mostly federal dollars to infrastructure improvements at dozens of airports across the state. An attempt to tie up this last loose end and steer federal dollars to

the construction sites in time for the spring building season was written into Senate Bill 511 and unanimously approved by the Michigan Senate on March 20, 2008.

But before that happened, the airport improvement financing became the subject of controversy when Sen. Mickey Switalski, D-Roseville, sponsored an amendment that would have added pre-approval for an additional \$1 billion in spending for state university and community college construction projects. This additional spending was supported by the governor, and Switalski argued that it would stimulate Michigan's fragile economy by creating construction jobs.

This was disputed by some Republican senators who countered that a "broke state government" should not be making the problem worse by borrowing the extra money necessary to

See "Extra Credit," Page 6

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Wage Fairness Commission Heads to Senate

House ratifies government board that would decide private pay

Under a bill approved by the Michigan House of Representatives on Feb. 12, 2008, a government commission would be created and empowered to devise a system of standards for "pay equity" between different occupations. This system would determine — to use just one of limitless examples — whether the work produced by a plumber is worth more or less than that

See "Wage Fairness," Page 9

Are you new to Michigan Capitol Confidential?

Many of you have already e-mailed, written or phoned us to say that you'd like to remain on the mailing list for Michigan Capitol Confidential. If you haven't contacted us yet, but would like to remain on our mailing list, please let us know!

If you are reading this newspaper for the first time, **thank you for taking the time to look over this** news publication from the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. We selected you for this mailing because you have shown an interest in the public policy issues that we discuss. Inside, you will find a review and analysis of important state legislative policy issues that does not always receive attention from the general media. Every two months we send this publication to make it easier for you to keep tabs on your elected representatives in Lansing.

Subscriptions are **FREE**, but to remain on our mailing list you must let us know by sending your name and home address. Enclosed is a postage-paid business reply envelope to make this easier – just fill in your name and address and send it in! Even easier still – just put the same information in an e-mail and send it to **MiCapCon@Mackinac.org**.

When you write to us, please feel free to include the names and addresses of family and friends who you think will enjoy Michigan Capitol Confidential as much as you do.

Additionally, you can help us keep Michigan Capitol Confidential coming to households just like yours by joining the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. The Center is dedicated to providing a free-market perspective on public policy issues that impact the Michigan economy. We provide that perspective through timely policy studies, commentaries, interaction with media and policymakers, and events for targeted audiences throughout the state. Our issues are economic in focus, but as diverse as taxation; government budgeting; science, environment and technology policy; labor policy; privatization; property rights; and general economic education.

The Mackinac Center's mission is to educate Michigan residents on the value of entrepreneurship, family, community, private initiative and independence from government. We believe, as our country's Founders did, that **liberty and sound policy can never be taken for granted**. Their preservation requires vigilance during each generation from both us and citizens like you.

If you share this goal, we would welcome your generous contribution to the Mackinac Center in any amount. Even a \$40 donation is a tremendous help. The Mackinac Center is a 501(c)(3) educational institute, and your donation is deductible on your federal income taxes.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give us – and don't forget to let us know if you want to continue your FREE subscription to Michigan Capitol Confidential!

Sincerely,



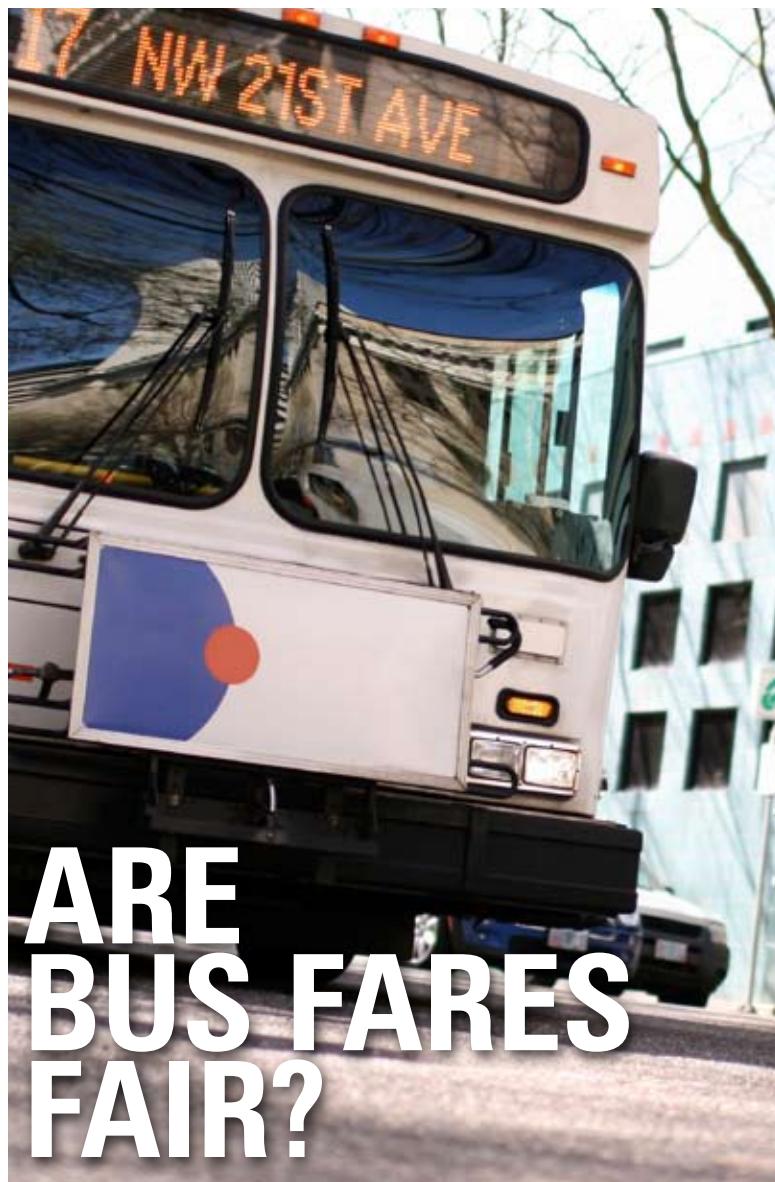
Kenneth M. Braun, Senior Managing Editor, MICHIGAN CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL

MACKINAC
CENTER
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS • 1988-2008

MICHIGAN
CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL

MiCapCon@Mackinac.org

989-631-0900



By **Kenneth M. Braun**

Michigan State Rep. David Agema, R-Grandville, has introduced legislation that would require local bus systems subsidized by state road tax dollars to generate at least 20 percent of their operating expenses from fares paid by riders. Given that few taxpayers know much about the finances of Michigan's public bus systems, most might consider this proposal, House Bill 4928, to be a paltry and superfluous requirement. "Surely," they may think, "Michigan's public transit users pay that much and more of their own way, right?"

Wrong.

As of 2005, the latest year that reports are available from the

Federal Transit Administration for Michigan's largest urban bus systems, not one of them raised as much as 20 percent of their operating expenses from fare revenues. The largest systems, those responsible for carrying the majority of Michigan's public bus passengers, fell well short.

For example, fares as a share of operating expenses for SMART, the system for the Detroit suburbs, and DDOT, the city of Detroit's system, were less than 12 percent. The figure for the Lansing area's Capital Area Transportation Authority was less than 15 percent. "The Rapid," serving Grand Rapids, was less than 15 percent; the Flint Mass Transportation Authority

See "Bus Fare," Page 8

NOTES ON STATESMANSHIP

Grab Bag Government

By **Lawrence W. Reed**

... A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government ...

—Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, March 1801

Oh, what a difference a couple hundred years can make! I wonder what Jefferson would think of the 2,306 earmarks (totaling more than \$2 billion) that Congress approved last year just within spending bills for colleges and universities. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, those dollars went for pet projects from "research" centers named for sitting members of Congress to a study on odors from swine and poultry. Is there anything these days that is not a function of government?

Lest you think the problem is restricted to Washington, visit www.michiganvotes.org and browse through the 2,500 bills introduced in the full-time Michigan Legislature last year. Mercifully, they didn't all pass, but about a third of them did — adding hundreds of new laws in one year alone (and almost none were repealed). Somehow I don't feel better governed. (Kentucky managed with just a third as many laws passed by its part-time Legislature, by the way.)

The pattern here isn't pretty. The sad fact is that today, many legislators and lots of citizens just don't see government as Jefferson did. It's not an impartial enforcer of peace assigned a few important duties and confined to "the people's business." No, the busi-

ness of lawmakers is all too often the dispensing of special breaks and favors to certain persons and entities instead of all people. They also spend a lot of time in frivolous matters, memorializing this or commemorating that, and otherwise cooking up things for government to say or do because it'll make somebody happy somewhere or get their name attached to a law. I call this "government by grab bag."

Senate Bill 1208 and House Bill 5904 each prescribe an "official Scottish tartan" for Michigan. Good thing our Legislature is one of the few "full-time" ones in the country.

Here's a representative sample of recent goodies from the Michigan Legislature's grab bag:

House Bill 5866 authorizes tens of millions of dollars in new state debt to subsidize the state's tourism industry. Didn't we just get whacked with a \$1.4 billion tax hike last fall? Are we now going to tax the children of tomorrow for the recreation of today's adults?

Senate Bill 1208 and House Bill 5904 each prescribe an "official Scottish tartan" for Michigan. Good thing our Legislature is one of the few "full-time" ones in the country, otherwise our lawmakers might not have time for this.

House Bill 4772 would impose licensure and regulation on interior designers. The fact that in Michigan, "anyone can claim to be an interior designer without any education or qualifications," according to the top interior design lobbyist in Lansing, "puts the public at risk." Most people hate ugly wallpaper, but is this the antidote?

A legislator from Warren introduced a resolution to urge those in high-rises to switch their lights off at night to deter bird crashes. Arguing that it wasn't a frivolous thing, she noted that lawmakers have also entertained the notions of declaring a Michigan cookie and a Michigan soup. I can't tell whether the birds lobbied for this one or if the legislator just had a little time on her hands.

Ominously, the grab baggers seem intent on offering "refundable" tax credits if people do certain things or if it would help somebody's bottom line. "Refundable" means that if the credit exceeds the recipient's tax liability, the state will cut them a check. Just since January, bills have been introduced to enact such credits for photovoltaic energy, ethanol, movie production, hybrid vehicle purchases and installing biomass-burning heaters.

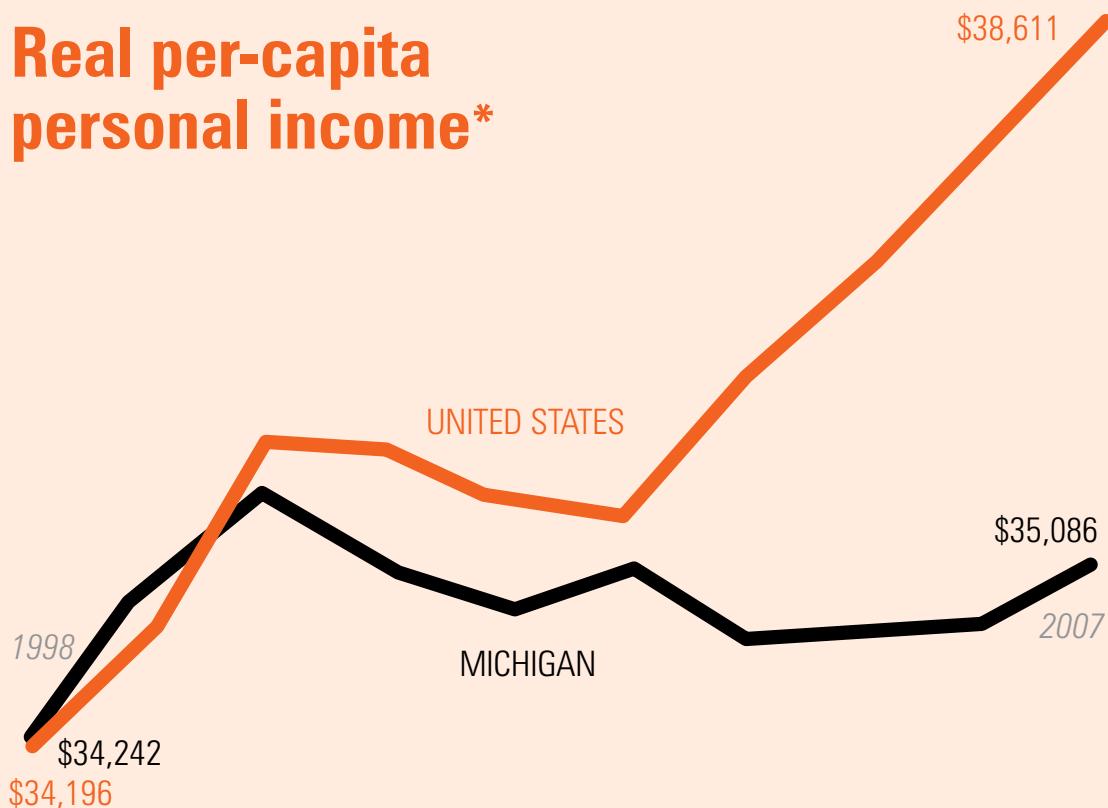
Maybe it's time that we as taxpayers and voters query candidates for public office less on what they will do if elected and more on what they won't do. We need candidates who make promises like this:

"I am not running to be Santa Claus. I will not support policies that favor the well-connected if they do not truly serve the public interest, too. I will not trivialize your trust by behaving as though your government has something to say or do about everything. I will not engage in the corrupting business of higher taxes for all and special breaks for a few. If it's not in the Constitution, it's not my job."

Until we elect legislators who have the courage to speak and act that way, a part-time Legislature seems like a good idea. ■

Lawrence W. Reed is president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Real per-capita personal income*



A TAXING QUESTION

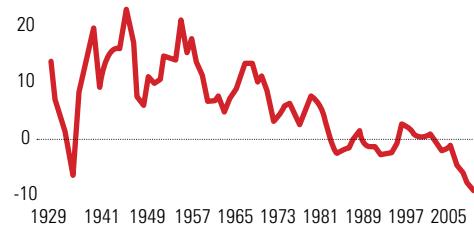
by David Littmann and Michael D. LaFaive

Per-Capita Personal Income is arguably the finest measure of material well-being of a population. The indicator below shows that Michigan's income levels have been below the U.S. average (the "0" line) for seven consecutive years. In 2007, Michigan's per-capita personal income was 9 percent below the national average. This year, 2008, will mark the eighth year in a row of Michigan's relative poverty — an economic status that is unprecedented in the 75 years since the Great Depression.

These income numbers alone are enough to make a person despair over Michigan's economic future.

Michigan per-capita personal income as a percent of U.S. PCPI

1929-2007



Source: Author's calculations based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unfortunately, they are not the only ones that paint a picture of a state in decline. Michigan's per-capita state Gross Domestic Product (the value of all goods and services produced within our borders) has tanked, our unemployment is the highest in the nation and, not surprisingly, from July 2006 to July 2007, Michigan was one of only two states in the nation to lose population in net terms.

While Michigan has many positive attributes, the following rhetorical question must be asked:

Does anyone outside of Lansing really believe that these metrics will improve because of last year's \$1.4 billion tax hike and new sundry fees and regulations?

Raising the cost of anything only reduces the quantity demanded of it. Raising the cost of living, working and investing in Michigan will only do the same. ■

David Littmann is senior economist and Michael D. LaFaive is director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

*Source: Author's calculations based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of Labor Statistics

REGULATORS

from Page One

serts that adopting federal oversight would put Michigan on an "even footing" with the rest of the nation and allow the state to implement a more streamlined federal standard that most investors better understand.



Russ Harding, former director Michigan DEQ

As an added bonus, Harding estimates an annual taxpayer savings of \$1 million to \$2 million if the state ceases its redundant wetlands regulatory regime. This is just one of four substantial environmental policy changes Harding recommends for lowering the regulatory hurdles to doing business in Michigan while maintaining protections of our state's natural resources. Together, his suggestions could save taxpayers an estimated \$8.9 million to \$9.9 million per year.

A spokesperson for the DEQ disagrees that the federal regime is more flexible, telling one Oakland County community newspaper that in other states it "takes too long to get permits to build on wetlands." He said that the DEQ also provides a higher level of environmental protection because there are issues of "local expertise" involving wetlands which the federal government "just can't have."



State Rep. Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham

Rep. Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham, whose district includes part of a region in Oakland County that is rich with lake-front property, disagrees. He told the newspaper that

the DEQ wetlands bureaucracy is "obstructionist," "difficult to deal with" and "hostile to any kind of human activity." He asserted that the federal alternative could not possibly be worse and that New Jersey — the only other state to run its own wetlands program — is probably not an example of en-

State Rep. Chuck Moss accused the DEQ wetlands bureaucracy of being "obstructionist" and "hostile to any kind of human activity."

vironmental protection that Michigan should continue to emulate.



State Rep. David Law, R-Commerce

Rep. David Law, R-Commerce, whose neighboring district also contains a substantial number of lakes, supports keeping the DEQ wetlands regime in place. "I don't trust the federal government to come in and tell us what to do," he said. "I don't think that's right."



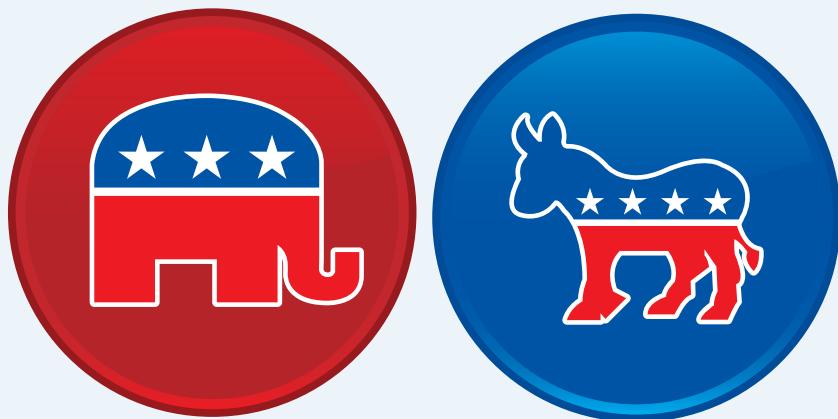
State Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Midland

But Moolenaar believes it is the DEQ that is giving too many "heavy-handed" orders and that his bill will be a remedy. "The draconian nature of some of their actions has stopped businesses from expanding and creating jobs," he said. "The federal government has much more experience in the wetlands permitting process and will properly balance the protection of our natural resources with the inherent need for economic development."

House Bill 4901 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Andy Meisner, D-Ferndale. Senate Bill 1112 has been referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, which is chaired by Sen. Patricia Birkholz, R-Saugatuck. ■

For additional information regarding this issue, please see www.mackinac.org/9448.

THE LOWDOWN



RANKING PARTISANS

Using 35 roll call votes selected from the MichiganVotes.org website, the MIRS Capitol Capsule newsletter (www.mirsnews.com – subscription required) ranked members of the Michigan House of Representatives according to what MIRS characterizes as “most conservative” to “most liberal.” Claiming the top conservative slot for 2007 was Rep. Brian Palmer, R-Romeo, who voted on what MIRS considered the conservative side 97.06 percent of the time. The most liberal tag went to Rep. Steve Lindberg, D-Marquette, whose conservative score was just 2.86 percent.

A wide variety of issues were covered, such as tax increases, banning smoking in private businesses and privatization of prison mental health services.

MIRS judged Rep. Ed Gaffney, R-Grosse Pointe, as having cast the most liberal votes of any member of the Republican caucus based on a conservative vote percentage of 31.43. Rep. Martin Griffin, D-Jackson, with a score of 33.33, sided with the conservative opinion more often than any of his fellow Democrats.



DEPT. OF DISCRIMINATION?

Advocates for a Women’s Studies instructor at the University of Michigan are charging the school’s College of Literature, Science and the Arts with “discrimination against women of color.” The instructor, Andrea Smith, is of Cherokee descent and also teaches in the college’s American Culture department. She was denied tenure by an LS&A panel on Feb. 22, 2008, according to the Michigan Daily, the campus’ student newspaper.

The denial followed a letter to the LS&A college, signed by 30 faculty members in the Women’s Studies department, which alleged a “concerning pattern” of “negative decisions” by LS&A regarding tenure cases involving women of color. But ironically, it was members of the Women’s Studies department who declined to offer tenure to Smith. The panel deciding her case was a mixture

of the two departments where she teaches, and the American Culture representatives voted in her favor.

Smith’s proponents point to her strong record as an academic and to her “feminist activism” as points in her favor. The newspaper notes that this is not the first instance of trouble over tenure at the Women’s Studies department, saying that “third party organizational consultants” were brought in this January to “alleviate the hostility.”

EARMARKINGS

Taxpayers for Common Sense (www.taxpayer.net), a national budget watchdog organization in Washington, D.C., reports that 12,881 earmarks worth \$18.3 billion were inserted into the fiscal 2008 federal budget. According to TCS, \$14.8 billion of this total carried the name of the sponsors requesting the earmarks.

Asserting that earmarks are an “element of pay-to-play corruption in Washington,” TCS has created online spreadsheets detailing the dollar amount of earmarks that each federal lawmaker is known to have requested alone or with other lawmakers. Then-U.S. Rep. Roger Wicker, R-MS, led the pack in the House of Representatives with earmark requests of nearly \$178 million. Wicker has since become a member of the U.S. Senate. The earmark cham-

panion from that chamber was also a Mississippi Republican: Sen. Thad Cochran, whose special spending requests totaled more than \$837 million.

Not all federal legislators asked for earmarks in the fiscal 2008 budget. A bipartisan list of at least eight representatives and five senators — including one presidential candidate — requested no earmarks at all.

Below is a listing of the fiscal 2008 earmark requests that TCS credits to each member of the Michigan congressional delegation and also for each of the members of Congress who ran as presidential candidates in 2008.

Michigan Members of Congress

Rep. Dave Camp (R) – \$6,269,970
 Rep. John Conyers (D) – \$25,686,900
 Rep. John Dingell (D) – \$33,039,100
 Rep. Vern Ehlers (R) – \$9,099,300



Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R) -- \$10,786,500
 Rep. Dale Kildee (R) – \$15,813,750
 Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D) – \$13,174,740
 Rep. Sander Levin (D) – \$16,394,420
 Sen. Carl Levin (D) – \$324,128,580
 Rep. Thad McCotter (R) – \$2,763,000
 Rep. Candice Miller (R) – \$5,470,500
 Rep. Mike Rogers (R) – \$22,532,140
 Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) – \$302,988,080
 Rep. Bart Stupak (D) – \$33,746,900
 Rep. Fred Upton (R) – \$15,822,600
 Rep. Tim Walberg (R) – \$16,645,000

2008 Presidential Candidates from Congress

Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE) – \$85,597,205
 Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) – \$87,133,151
 Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) – \$342,403,455
 Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT) – \$172,481,242
 Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) – \$27,074,500
 Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) – \$8,102,560
 Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) – \$0
 Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) – \$98,648,720
 Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) – \$27,066,000
 Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO) – \$17,558,700 ■

For additional information regarding this issue, please see www.mackinac.org/9448.

EXTRA CREDIT*from Page One*

finance new projects. Two GOP senators voted with 15 Democrats in support of Switalski's amendment, but it was narrowly defeated by 19 Republican votes in opposition.

Deficit spending was the subject of another proposal that was considered this March. House Bills 5865-5867 would authorize spending \$60 million in borrowed money to establish the "Michigan Promotion Program," a multiyear tourism marketing and business development plan to be run by state workers.

Michigan already has a government-financed tourism promotion program. This marks the second attempt within a year at increasing its cost. The Senate rejected an amendment submitted in August 2007 that would have ramped up spending an additional \$10 million (see "Extra Tourism Subsidies Defeated in State Senate," November/December, 2007 Michigan Capitol Confidential.)

Michigan already has a government-financed tourism promotion program. This marks the second attempt within a year at increasing its cost.

But this new attempt to increase state spending for tourism promotion has fared much better, in large measure because Gov. Jennifer Granholm specifically requested it in her 2008 State of the State message. Each of the bills passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities this spring. Only 11 of the 110 state representatives voted consistently against all three bills.

"We have to stop mortgaging the state's future to deal with the short term," noted state Rep. Fulton Sheen, R-Plainwell, who cast one of the dissenting votes. "They should cut spending now, not have to cut twice as much later."

"We have to stop mortgaging the state's future to deal with the short term," noted state Rep. Fulton Sheen, R-Plainwell

The following week, the Michigan Senate voted to unanimously approve Senate Bills 1223-1225, a \$50 million version of the Michigan Promotion Program. Upon its return from a spring break, the full Legislature is expected to reconcile the minor differences between the two proposals and send bills to the governor for an anticipated signature.

Legislative activity in March also included early votes toward assembling the fiscal 2009 budget. The first version of House Bill 5804, which would fund the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, is just one example of future spending inclinations. The initial draft was approved by the House of Representatives on March 19. It would appropriate a gross spending level that is 8.1 percent higher than what the governor requested and 15.3 percent higher than the spending level for fiscal 2008.

State Rep. Dan Acciavatti, R-Chesterfield, the ranking GOP member of the House Appropriations Committee, characterized the first draft of the HAL budget as leading state government "down a path of structural budget deficits and devastating tax increases like last year."

Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, countered that higher arts spending helps the economy.

The chairman of the subcommittee that wrote the HAL budget draft, Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, countered that higher arts spending helps the economy.

Check MichiganVotes.org

Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of a budget for the Department of History, Arts and Libraries that is 15.1 percent higher than fiscal 2008 and 8.1 percent higher than the governor's recommendation :

House roll call vote 201 on House Bill 5804

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (1)

Stakoe (R)

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (58)

Accavitti (D)	Clemente (D)	Espinoza (D)	Johnson (D)	Meadows (D)	Smith, Virgil (D)
Angerer (D)	Condino (D)	Farrah (D)	Jones, Robert (D)	Meisner (D)	Spade (D)
Bauer (D)	Constan (D)	Gillard (D)	Lahti (D)	Melton (D)	Tobocman (D)
Bennett (D)	Corriveau (D)	Gonzales (D)	Law, Kathleen (D)	Miller (D)	Vagnozzi (D)
Bieda (D)	Coulouris (D)	Griffin (D)	LeBlanc (D)	Polidori (D)	Valentine (D)
Brown (D)	Cushingberry (D)	Hammel (D)	Leland (D)	Sak (D)	Warren (D)
Byrnes (D)	Dean (D)	Hammon (D)	Lemmons (D)	Scott (D)	Wojno (D)
Byrum (D)	Dillon (D)	Hood (D)	Lindberg (D)	Sheltrown (D)	Young (D)
Cheeks (D)	Donigan (D)	Hopgood (D)	Mayes (D)	Simpson (D)	
Clack (D)	Ebli (D)	Jackson (D)	McDowell (D)	Smith, Alma (D)	

Legislators who voted AGAINST the higher spending HAL budget:

House roll call vote 201 on House Bill 5804

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (49)

Acciavatti (R)	DeRoche (R)	Horn (R)	Meltzer (R)	Pavlov (R)	Steil (R)
Agema (R)	Elsenheimer (R)	Huizenga (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Pearce (R)	Walker (R)
Amos (R)	Emmons (R)	Hune (R)	Moore (R)	Proos (R)	Ward (R)
Booher (R)	Gaffney (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Moss (R)	Robertson (R)	Wenke (R)
Brandenburg (R)	Garfield (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Nitz (R)	Rocca (R)	
Calley (R)	Green (R)	LaJoy (R)	Nofs (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	
Casperson (R)	Hansen (R)	Law, David (R)	Opsommer (R)	Shaffer (R)	
Caswell (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Marleau (R)	Palmer (R)	Sheen (R)	
Caul (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Meekhof (R)	Palsrok (R)	Stahl (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Ball (R)

Pastor (R)

One GOP state representative joined 58 Democrats voting in favor of this proposed HAL budget, which passed over the objections of 49 other lawmakers — all Republicans. The bill was referred to the Senate for further deliberations.

The Michiganvotes.org vote tallies for all of these legislative actions begin above.

For more information regarding these issues, please see www.mackinac.org/9448.

FIND REAL NEWS THAT DOESN'T MAKE THE PAPERS!



Your state legislators cast many important votes each month that are rarely covered by the press or discussed by the lawmakers themselves. Many of these votes are on bills and amendments that could impact your freedom, your pocketbook and your family. Somebody is watching the lawmakers, however, and placing their entire record just a mouseclick away at your fingertips: **MichiganVotes.org**.

This free, user-friendly service lets you:

- Read brief, plain-English descriptions of every bill and amendment, and how each lawmaker voted on them.
- Research all of the votes cast and all of the bills introduced by every Michigan lawmaker back to 2001.
- Easily research bills and votes of interest to you by keyword, topic, date, and more!
- Receive automatic email updates when legislative action is taken on bills and issues that are of interest to you.
- Participate in the lively MichiganVotes.org online message boards, debating with others what your lawmakers are doing.

MichiganVotes.org

Check MichiganVotes.org

Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of one or more bills that would pay for tourism promotion with debt:

Senate roll call vote 219,220 & 225 on Senate Bills 1223-1225

SENATE REPUBLICANS (21)

Allen (R)	Cropsey (R)	Jansen (R)	Pappageorge (R)	Van Woerkom (R)
Birkholz (R)	Garcia (R)	Jelinek (R)	Patterson (R)	
Bishop (R)	George (R)	Kahn (R)	Richardville (R)	
Brown (R)	Gilbert (R)	Kuipers (R)	Sanborn (R)	
Cassis (R)	Hardiman (R)	McManus (R)	Stamas (R)	

SENATE DEMOCRATS (16)

Anderson (D)	Clark-Coleman (D)	Jacobs (D)	Scott (D)
Barcia (D)	Clarke (D)	Olshove (D)	Switalski (D)
Basham (D)	Gleason (D)	Prusi (D)	Thomas (D)
Cherry (D)	Hunter (D)	Schauer (D)	Whitmer (D)

House roll call vote 190, 193 & 194 on House Bills 5865-5867

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (40)

Acciavatti (R)	Emmons (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Moss (R)	Rocca (R)
Amos (R)	Gaffney (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Nitz (R)	Schuitmaker (R)
Ball (R)	Green (R)	LaJoy (R)	Nofs (R)	Shaffer (R)
Booher (R)	Hansen (R)	Marleau (R)	Opsommer (R)	Stahl (R)
Calley (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Meekhof (R)	Palsrok (R)	Stakoe (R)
Casperson (R)	Horn (R)	Meltzer (R)	Pavlov (R)	Walker (R)
Caul (R)	Huizenga (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Proos (R)	Ward (R)
Eisenheimer (R)	Hune (R)	Moore (R)	Robertson (R)	Wenke (R)

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (57)

Accavitti (D)	Constan (D)	Griffin (D)	Lemmons (D)	Simpson (D)
Angerer (D)	Corriveau (D)	Hammel (D)	Lindberg (D)	Smith, Virgil (D)
Bauer (D)	Coulouris (D)	Hammon (D)	Mayes (D)	Spade (D)
Bennett (D)	Cushingberry (D)	Hood (D)	McDowell (D)	Tobocman (D)
Bieda (D)	Dean (D)	Hopgood (D)	Meadows (D)	Vagnozzi (D)
Brown (D)	Dillon (D)	Jackson (D)	Meisner (D)	Valentine (D)
Byrnes (D)	Donigan (D)	Johnson (D)	Melton (D)	Warren (D)
Byrum (D)	Ebli (D)	Jones, Robert (D)	Miller (D)	Wojno (D)
Cheeks (D)	Espinoza (D)	Lahti (D)	Polidori (D)	Young (D)
Clack (D)	Farrar (D)	Law, Kathleen (D)	Sak (D)	
Clemente (D)	Gillard (D)	LeBlanc (D)	Scott (D)	
Condino (D)	Gonzales (D)	Leland (D)	Sheltrown (D)	

Legislators who voted AGAINST all of the bills that would pay for tourism promotion with debt:

Senate roll call vote 219,220 & 225 on Senate Bills 1223-1225

SENATE REPUBLICANS (NONE)

SENATE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

House roll call vote 190, 193 & 194 on House Bills 5865-5867

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (11)

Agema (R)	Caswell (R)	Garfield (R)	Palmer (R)	Pearce (R)	Steil (R)
Brandenburg (R)	DeRoche (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Pastor (R)	Sheen (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Rep. David Law (R)	Rep. Alma Smith (D)	Sen. Liz Brater (D)
--------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Check MichiganVotes.org

Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of providing spending authorization for some \$1 billion in construction projects at state universities and colleges and \$100 million in state building and facility projects:

Senate roll call vote 175 on Senate Bill 511

SENATE REPUBLICANS (2)

Kahn (R)	Richardville (R)
----------	------------------

SENATE DEMOCRATS (15)

Anderson (D)	Clark-Coleman (D)	Prusi (D)
Barcia (D)	Clarke (D)	Schauer (D)
Basham (D)	Gleason (D)	Scott (D)
Brater (D)	Jacobs (D)	Switalski (D)
Cherry (D)	Olshove (D)	Whitmer (D)

Legislators who voted AGAINST providing the spending authorization:

Senate roll call vote 175 on Senate Bill 511

SENATE REPUBLICANS (19)

Allen (R)	Cropsey (R)	Jansen (R)	Patterson (R)
Birkholz (R)	Garcia (R)	Jelinek (R)	Sanborn (R)
Bishop (R)	George (R)	Kuipers (R)	Stamas (R)
Brown (R)	Gilbert (R)	McManus (R)	Van Woerkom (R)
Cassis (R)	Hardiman (R)	Pappageorge (R)	

SENATE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Hunter (D)	Thomas (D)
------------	------------

CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU'RE READING?

Then tell us to keep it coming!

If you haven't contacted us yet but would like to keep receiving Michigan Capitol Confidential, we need you to e-mail us at micapcon@mackinac.org or call 989-631-0900 to let us know that we should keep sending it. That's it!

To help us publish and mail this newspaper, the Mackinac Center accepts donations in any amount. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable educational foundation, and your donation is 100 percent tax-deductible on your federal income tax form.

If you have friends or family who would enjoy Michigan Capitol Confidential, please send us their names as well!

We look forward to hearing from you!

BUS FARE

from Page 3

was less than 16 percent; and the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority was less than 14 percent.

If riders pay less than 20 percent of the operating costs, then who pays the rest? Ahem — got a mirror?

About one-third of these total public bus operating expenses came from the state's Comprehensive Transportation Fund — a mass transit subsidy carved out of the state's annual road budget. Like the rest of this budget, nearly all CTF funding comes from federal and state motor fuel taxes and state vehicle registration fees. The money for the CTF that's taken from this pool of transportation dollars is a redistribution of wealth from the state's car and truck drivers to its transit agencies. Vehicle owners and drivers pay substantially more for rides they may never take on public buses than do the riders themselves.

The state constitution caps this diversion at no more than 10 percent, meaning that at least 90 percent of annual transportation revenues must be spent on roads. But even with this restriction, Michigan lawmakers in Fiscal Year 2005 allocated more than \$161 million for local bus operating subsidies, \$16.3 million for bus capital improvements, \$7.2 million for passenger train subsidies, and more for various other public bus and transportation-related spending.

It is also noteworthy that FTA reports indicate that virtually all

of the fare revenue for Michigan's largest fixed route bus systems is dedicated for operating expenses only. The overwhelming majority of the operating costs, and virtually all of the capital costs, come from a combination of the CTF revenue diversion, local tax revenue and federal grants. (The requirements of House Bill 4928 and the calculations above apply only to fixed-route bus systems and not dial-a-ride or other "on demand" public transit service.)

Notwithstanding the figures cited above, the 20 percent requirement of HB 4928 is not beyond the reach of public bus agencies. DDOT, by far the state's largest public transit service, covered more than 20 percent of its fixed-route operating costs with fares as recently as 1999. Elsewhere, in New York City's massive bus system, operating costs were 42.4 percent fare-supported in 2005; Chicago riders covered 34.2 percent; Toledo's paid 20.7 percent; and Indianapolis patrons contributed 22.2 percent.

It's neither unreasonable nor unprecedented to expect the people using the service to pay more of the cost.

Yet testifying in favor of more taxpayer support, the executive director of The Rapid in 2007 told state legislators that his system covered only 18 percent of its 2006 operating costs with fares. He said increasing fares would mean a loss of customers. His remark reveals a skewed perception in the collective mind of Michigan's mass transit chiefs: The people forking over the vast majority of the money are not considered the real customers, while those considered the customers are expected to pay very little of the cost.

House Bill 4928 represents a helpful turn toward clearing up this confusion. ■

Kenneth M. Braun is the senior managing editor of Michigan Capitol Confidential. A version of this commentary was originally published on Oct. 5, 2007.



Michigan Capitol Confidential

Editor: Michael D. Jahr

Senior Managing Editor: Kenneth M. Braun

Graphic Designer: Daniel E. Montgomery

Michigan Capitol Confidential is published bimonthly by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, tax-exempt research and educational institute devoted to analyzing Michigan public policy issues. Michigan Capitol Confidential is distributed to Michigan residents who have expressed an interest in public policy matters, as well as members of the media and lawmakers and policy staff in the Michigan House, Michigan Senate and Office of the Governor. All rights reserved. Permission to excerpt or reprint is hereby granted provided that Michigan Capitol Confidential, the author and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy are properly cited.

140 West Main Street, Midland, Michigan 48640
989-631-0900 • www.mackinac.org • MichiganVotes.org

Dear Michigan Capitol Confidential

Thank you for your insightful and helpful publication. I am wondering if it is possible to include bills that will be coming up for a vote so we readers may contact [legislators] to let them know our views.

I am particularly interested in HB5100. I know it has gone through the House, but is there still time to contact the Senate before they take it up for a vote? Has it already been voted on?

Thank you,
Karen Kruske

Ms. Kruske:

Thank you for your kind words and your questions.

As of May 2, 2008, the state Senate had not yet taken up House Bill 5100. So, in that instance, there was still time to let members of the Senate know your thoughts about the bill before they voted on it.

But be advised that while we publish every two months, either chamber of the Legislature can move many bills from inactive to final passage within hours. If you have an opinion on a bill that you wish to share, then my advice as a former legislative staff person would be that you not be deterred from contacting your lawmaker merely because the legislation has already been voted on. There will doubtlessly be other bills on similar subjects in the future, and it is helpful for your lawmakers to know whether you agree or disagree with their decisions.

Always remember: They work for YOU!

To get timely information about the status of all bills before the state Legislature, I strongly recommend checking out our free Web site, www.MichiganVotes.org.

Finally, we provide in every issue the office contact information for all 148 state legislators (located on pages 10-11 of this issue).

Thank you for your interest in Michigan Capitol Confidential.

Ken Braun
Senior Managing Editor

How do you use Michigan Capitol Confidential?
Please write us and let us know!

MICAPCON@MACKINAC.ORG

WAGE FAIRNESS

from Page One

of a nurse, and would also create a comparable wage for each type of job based on those findings. After devising such a system, the commission would then be required to report to the Legislature recommendations for laws that would impose its findings on Michigan employers.

House Bill 4627, the legislation that would create the commission, does not specify a limitation on its scope. Much of the committee testimony both for and against the bill implicitly assumed that the commission could and would (or should) devise a pay equity standard with jurisdiction over both public- and private-sector employers.

The Michigan Farm Bureau opposed the legislation on the basis that it would “have serious negative implications for agricultural producers.”

This was one of three pay equity bills written about in the November/December, 2007 Michigan Capitol Confidential: “Bills Would Put the State in Charge of Setting Private Salaries.” Because the bills collectively have 49 co-sponsors and need only 56 votes to pass, the article rightly observed that the full House of Representatives might attempt to ratify some version of the pay equity concept.

As it happened, House Bill 4627 narrowly passed when one GOP lawmaker joined 56 Democrats in support, while 50 lawmakers — all Republicans — voted “no.” The legislation has been sent to the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, chaired by Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

If it is ultimately ratified by the full Senate and signed by the governor, the “Commission on Pay Equity” will be comprised of 10 members, with one each from

the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Women’s Commission, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, The Michigan Farm Bureau, the AFL-CIO union, the United Auto Workers union, the Michigan Small Business Association, the National Organization for Women and the Michigan Women’s Studies Association. The chair of the committee must be the representative from the Department of Civil Rights.

One of these organizations — the Michigan Farm Bureau — submitted a letter of opposition to the bill and the entire concept of pay equity. In the same sentence that acknowledged support for including the Bureau on the commission, the organization stated that this would not “alter our fundamental opposition with the legislation.” That opposition was rooted in the Bureau’s belief that “a system that seeks to establish comparable value between different types of work will have serious negative implications for agricultural producers.”

Likewise, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce — business organizations that would not get a seat on the commission — also opposed the bill.

Several of the organizations that would get a seat on the commission submitted letters of support for the bill.

“Workers in female dominated jobs,” according to the AFL-CIO endorsement letter, “are paid less than similar workers in jobs not dominated by women.”

A letter of support from the National Organization for Women cited sex stereotyping and undervaluing of women as two of many reasons why women working in different jobs than men are paid differently. Attempting to counter the accusation that a government commission is ill-suited to determine the correct market wage for vastly dissimilar occupations, NOW suggested a point system that the organization

Check MichiganVotes.org

Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of mandating a government pay equity commission:

House roll call vote 21 on House Bill 4627

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (1)

Brandenburg (R)

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (56)

Accavitti (D)	Clemente (D)	Espinoza (D)	Jones, Robert (D)	Meisner (D)	Tobocman (D)
Angerer (D)	Condino (D)	Gillard (D)	Lahti (D)	Melton (D)	Vagnozzi (D)
Bauer (D)	Constan (D)	Gonzales (D)	Law, Kathleen (D)	Miller (D)	Valentine (D)
Bennett (D)	Corriveau (D)	Griffin (D)	LeBlanc (D)	Polidori (D)	Warren (D)
Bieda (D)	Coulouris (D)	Hammel (D)	Leland (D)	Sak (D)	Wojno (D)
Brown (D)	Cushingberry (D)	Hammon (D)	Lemmons (D)	Sheltrown (D)	Young (D)
Byrnes (D)	Dean (D)	Hood (D)	Lindberg (D)	Simpson (D)	
Byrum (D)	Dillon (D)	Hopgood (D)	Mayes (D)	Smith, Alma (D)	
Cheeks (D)	Donigan (D)	Jackson (D)	McDowell (D)	Smith, Virgil (D)	
Clack (D)	Ebli (D)	Johnson (D)	Meadows (D)	Spade (D)	

Legislators who voted AGAINST mandating a government pay equity commission:

House roll call vote 21 on House Bill 4627

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (50)

Acciavatti (R)	DeRoche (R)	Horn (R)	Meltzer (R)	Pastor (R)	Stahl (R)
Agema (R)	Elsenheimer (R)	Huizenga (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Pavlov (R)	Stakoe (R)
Amos (R)	Emmons (R)	Hune (R)	Moore (R)	Pearce (R)	Steil (R)
Ball (R)	Gaffney (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Moss (R)	Proos (R)	Walker (R)
Booher (R)	Garfield (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Nitz (R)	Robertson (R)	Wenke (R)
Calley (R)	Green (R)	LaJoy (R)	Nofs (R)	Rocca (R)	
Casperson (R)	Hansen (R)	Law, David (R)	Opsommer (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	
Caswell (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Marleau (R)	Palmer (R)	Shaffer (R)	
Caul (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Meekhof (R)	Palsrok (R)	Sheen (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Farrah (D)

Scott (D)

Ward (R)

The National Organization for Women believes a point system could be used to value every job as objectively as one might when comparing apples to oranges by weighing them, counting calories and adding up nutritional value.

believes could be used to value every job as objectively as when a shopper compares apples to oranges by weighing them, counting calories and adding up nutritional value.

The NOW example suggests assigning scores based upon

how much each job requires of a worker in five categories: skill, responsibility, effort, education/training and working conditions. These are the same criteria that House Bill 4627 instructs the proposed pay equity commission to use. Using the NOW example, crafting a point system for each job category would be followed by the commission suggesting laws that would assure that jobs scoring the same would pay the same.

Writing in 2001 about a Minnesota law that imposed a pay equity system only on municipal government workers, Lawrence W. Reed, president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, critiqued its impact on the city of St. Paul: “\$32 million in additional salary expense between 1985 and 1992, endless disputes

about who is comparable to whom, and lingering uncertainty as to whether the city is in compliance with the law.” He cites a University of Virginia study which found that the ensuing disruptions in the Minnesota labor market artificially cut wages for computer specialists and nurses, creating shortages in both fields. Reed pointed out that the outcome from imposing such a standard on both public and private employers would be to “arbitrarily and effectively abolish the role of supply and demand in the labor market.”

The Michiganvotes.org vote tally for House Bill 4627 is above. ■

For more information regarding these issues, please see www.mackinac.org/9448.

Information appears as follows:

State Senate District
Last Name, First Name: Party
Location
Phone
E-mail

01
Clarke, Hansen: D
710 Farnum Building
517-373-7346
SenHansenClarke@senate.michigan.gov

02
Scott, Martha G.: D
220 Farnum Building
517-373-7748
SenMScott@senate.michigan.gov

03
Clark-Coleman, Irma: D
310 Farnum Building
517-373-0990
SenIClark-Coleman@senate.michigan.gov

04
Thomas III, Samuel Buzz: D
S-9 Capitol Building
517-373-7918
SenBThomas@senate.michigan.gov

05
Hunter, Tupac A.: D
915 Farnum Building
517-373-0994
SenTAHunter@senate.michigan.gov

06
Anderson, Glenn S.: D
610 Farnum Building
517-373-1707
SenGAnderson@senate.michigan.gov

07
Patterson, Bruce: R
505 Farnum Building
517-373-7350
SenBPatterson@senate.michigan.gov

08
Basham, Raymond E.: D
715 Farnum Building
517-373-7800
SenRBasham@senate.michigan.gov

09
Olshove, Dennis: D
920 Farnum Building
517-373-8360
SenDOlshove@senate.michigan.gov

10
Switalski, Michael: D
410 Farnum Building
517-373-7315
SenMSwitalski@senate.michigan.gov

11
Sanborn, Alan: R
S-310 Capitol Building
517-373-7670
SenASanborn@senate.michigan.gov

12
Bishop, Michael: R
S-106 Capitol Building
517-373-2417
SenMBishop@senate.michigan.gov

13
Pappageorge, John: R
1020 Farnum Building
517-373-2523
SenJPappageorge@senate.michigan.gov

14
Jacobs, Gilda Z.: D
1015 Farnum Building
517-373-7888
SenGJacobs@senate.michigan.gov

15
Cassis, Nancy: R
905 Farnum Building
517-373-1758
SenNCassis@senate.michigan.gov

16
Brown, Cameron: R
405 Farnum Building
517-373-5932
SenCBrown@senate.michigan.gov

17
Richardville, Randy: R
205 Farnum Building
517-373-3543
SenRRichardville@senate.michigan.gov

18
Brater, Liz: D
510 Farnum Building
517-373-2406
SenLBrater@senate.michigan.gov

19
Schauer, Mark: D
S-105 Capitol Building
517-373-2426
SenMSchauer@senate.michigan.gov

20
George, Thomas M.: R
320 Farnum Building
517-373-0793
SenTGeorge@senate.michigan.gov

21
Jelinek, Ron: R
S-324 Capitol Building
517-373-6960
SenRJelinek@senate.michigan.gov

22
Garcia, Valde: R
S-132 Capitol Building
517-373-2420
SenVGarcia@senate.michigan.gov

23
Whitmer, Gretchen: D
415 Farnum Building
517-373-1734
SenGWhitmer@senate.michigan.gov

24
Birkholz, Patricia L.: R
805 Farnum Building
517-373-3447
SenPBirkholz@senate.michigan.gov

25
Gilbert II, Judson: R
705 Farnum Building
517-373-7708
SenJGilbert@senate.michigan.gov

26
Cherry, Deborah: D
910 Farnum Building
517-373-1636
SenDCherry@senate.michigan.gov

27
Gleason, John: D
315 Farnum Building
517-373-0142
SenJGleason@senate.michigan.gov

28
Jansen, Mark C.: R
520 Farnum Building
517-373-0797
SenMJansen@senate.michigan.gov

29
Hardiman, Bill: R
305 Farnum Building
517-373-1801
SenBHardiman@senate.michigan.gov

30
Kuipers, Wayne: R
1005 Farnum Building
517-373-6920
SenWKuipers@senate.michigan.gov

31
Barcia, Jim: D
1010 Farnum Building
517-373-1777
SenJBarcia@senate.michigan.gov

32
Kahn, Roger MD: R
420 Farnum Building
517-373-1760
SenRKahn@senate.michigan.gov

33
Cropsey, Alan L.: R
S-8 Capitol Building
517-373-3760
SenACropsey@senate.michigan.gov

34
VanWoerkom, Gerald: R
605 Farnum Building
517-373-1635
SenGVanWoerkom@senate.michigan.gov

35
McManus, Michelle: R
S-2 Capitol Building
517-373-1725
SenMMcManus@senate.michigan.gov

36
Stamas, Tony: R
720 Farnum Building
517-373-7946
SenTStamas@senate.michigan.gov

37
Allen, Jason: R
820 Farnum Building
517-373-2413
SenJAllen@senate.michigan.gov

38
Prusi, Michael: D
515 Farnum Building
517-373-7840
SenMPrusi@senate.michigan.gov

WHY WE GIVE PARTY AFFILIATIONS:

The Legislature is managed as a partisan institution. Lawmakers segregate themselves by party in matters from daily meetings to seating. They have separate and taxpayer-financed policy staffs to provide them with research and advice from differing perspectives. As such, gaining a full understanding of the vote of an individual lawmaker requires knowing his or her partisan affiliation.

WHO ARE YOUR LAWMAKERS?

To find out which lawmakers represent you and to view interactive legislative district maps, please point your web browser to www.mackinac.org/9313.

If you do not have Internet access, then you may obtain copies of legislative district maps by calling 989-631-0900 or by sending a written request to us at: Mackinac Center for Public Policy, c/o MiCapCon District Maps, 140 West Main Street, Midland, MI 48640

Did you know?

Members of the Michigan House and Senate are the second highest-paid state legislators in the United States, behind California.

Base member annual pay: \$79,650

Additional annual expense allowance: \$12,000

Supplements are paid to the following 12 legislative officers:

- Speaker of the House: \$27,000
- Majority leader in the Senate: \$26,000
- Minority leaders in both House and Senate: \$22,000
- Majority floor leaders in both House and Senate: \$12,000
- Minority floor leaders in both House and Senate: \$10,000
- Chair of Appropriations Committee in both House and Senate: \$7,000
- House speaker pro tempore and Senate president pro tempore: \$5,513

In more than 30 states, the position of state legislator is a part-time job with a salary of \$30,000 or less. Texas — the second most populous state and second largest geographically — pays lawmakers \$7,200 per year.

Some pay much less: New Hampshire legislators are paid a salary of \$200 for a two-year term of office, Alabama pays \$10 per day and New Mexico offers no salary at all — just expenses. ■

Information appears as follows:

State House District
Last Name, First Name: Party
Location / Phone
E-mail
—
HOB = House Office Building
CB = Capitol Building

001
Gaffney, Edward: R
S 0585 HOB / 517-373-0154
edwardgaffney@house.mi.gov

002
Lemmons Jr., LaMar: D
S 0586 HOB / 517-373-0106
lamarlemmonsjr@house.mi.gov

003
Scott, Bettie Cook: D
S 0587 HOB / 517-373-1776
bettiecookscott@house.mi.gov

004
Young II, Coleman: D
S 0588 HOB / 517-373-1008
colemanyoungii@house.mi.gov

005
Johnson, Bert: D
S 0589 HOB / 517-373-0144
bertjohnson@house.mi.gov

006
Cheeks, Marsha: D
S 0685 HOB / 517-373-0844
marshacheeks@house.mi.gov

007
Smith, Virgil: D
S 0688 HOB / 517-373-0589
virgilsmith@house.mi.gov

008
Cushingberry Jr., George: D
S 0687 HOB / 517-373-2276
georgecushingberry@house.mi.gov

009
Jackson, Shanelle: D
S 0688 HOB / 517-373-1705
shanellejackson@house.mi.gov

010
Leland, Gabe: D
S 0689 HOB / 517-373-6990
gabeleland@house.mi.gov

011
Hood III, Morris: D
N 0690 HOB / 517-373-3815
morrishood3rd@house.mi.gov

012
Tobocman, Steve: D
155 CB / 517-373-0823
stevetobocman@house.mi.gov

013
Farrar, Barbara: D
N 0692 HOB / 517-373-0845
bararafarrar@house.mi.gov

014
Clemente, Ed: D
N 0693 HOB / 517-373-0140
edclemente@house.mi.gov

015
Polidori, Gino: D
N 0694 HOB / 517-373-0847
ginopolidori@house.mi.gov

016
Constan, Bob: D
N 0695 HOB / 517-373-0849
bobconstan@house.mi.gov

017
Dillon, Andy: D
166 CB / 517-373-0857
andydillon@house.mi.gov

018
LeBlanc, Richard: D
N 0697 HOB / 517-373-2576
richardleblanc@house.mi.gov

019
Pastor, John: R
N 0698 HOB / 517-373-3920
johnpastor@house.mi.gov

020
Corriveau, Marc: D
N 0699 HOB / 517-373-3816
marccorriveau@house.mi.gov

021
LaJoy, Philip: R
S 0785 HOB / 517-373-2575
phillajoy@house.mi.gov

022
Hopgood, Hoon-Yung: D
S 0786 HOB / 517-373-0852
hoon-yunghopgood@house.mi.gov

023
Law, Kathleen: D
S 0787 HOB / 517-373-0855
kathleenlaw@house.mi.gov

024
Brandenburg, Jack: R
S 0788 HOB / 517-373-0113
jackbrandenburg@house.mi.gov

025
Bieda, Steve: D
S 0789 HOB / 517-373-1772
stevebieda@house.mi.gov

026
Donigan, Marie: D
N 0790 HOB / 517-373-3818
mariedonigan@house.mi.gov

027
Meisner, Andy: D
N 0791 HOB / 517-373-0478
andymeisner@house.mi.gov

028
Wojno, Lisa: D
N 0792 HOB / 517-373-2275
lisawojno@house.mi.gov

029
Melton, Tim: D
N 0793 HOB / 517-373-0475
timmelton@house.mi.gov

030
Rocca, Tory: R
N 0794 HOB / 517-373-7768
toryrocca@house.mi.gov

031
Miller, Fred: D
N 0795 HOB / 517-373-0159
fredmiller@house.mi.gov

032
Acciavatti, Daniel: R
N 0796 HOB / 517-373-8931
danielacciavatti@house.mi.gov

033
Meltzer, Kim: R
N 0797 HOB / 517-373-0820
kimmeltzer@house.mi.gov

034
Clack, Brenda: D
N 0798 HOB / 517-373-8808
brendaclack@house.mi.gov

035
Condino, Paul: D
N 0799 HOB / 517-373-1788
paulcondino@house.mi.gov

036
Palmer, Brian: R
S 0885 HOB / 517-373-0843
repbrianpalmer@house.mi.gov

037
Vagnozzi, Aldo: D
S 0886 HOB / 517-373-1793
aldovagnozzi@house.mi.gov

038
DeRoche, Craig: R
167 CB / 517-373-0827
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

039
Law, David: R
S 0888 HOB / 517-373-1799
davidlaw@house.mi.gov

040
Moss, Chuck: R
S 0889 HOB / 517-373-8670
chuckmoss@house.mi.gov

041
Knollenberg, Marty: R
N 0890 HOB / 517-373-1783
martyknollenberg@house.mi.gov

042
Accavitti Jr., Frank: D
N 0891 HOB / 517-373-0854
frankaccavitti@house.mi.gov

043
Amos, Fran: R
N 0892 HOB / 517-373-0615
franamos@house.mi.gov

044
Stakoe, John: R
N 0893 HOB / 517-373-2616
johnstakoe@house.mi.gov

045
Garfield, John: R
N 0894 HOB / 517-373-1773
johngarfield@house.mi.gov

046
Marleau, Jim: R
N 0895 HOB / 517-373-1798
jimmarleau@house.mi.gov

047
Hune, Joe: R
N 0896 HOB / 517-373-8835
joehune@house.mi.gov

048
Hammel, Richard: D
N 0897 HOB / 517-373-7557
richardhammel@house.mi.gov

049
Gonzales, Lee: D
N 0898 HOB / 517-373-7515
leegonzales@house.mi.gov

050
Hammon, Ted: D
N 0899 HOB / 517-373-3906
tedhammon@house.mi.gov

051
Robertson, David: R
S 0985 HOB / 517-373-1780
davidrobertson@house.mi.gov

052
Byrnes, Pam: D
S 0986 HOB / 517-373-0828
pambyrnes@house.mi.gov

053
Warren, Rebekah: D
S 0987 HOB / 517-373-2577
rebekahwarren@house.mi.gov

054
Smith, Alma: D
S 0988 HOB / 517-373-1771
almasmith@house.mi.gov

055
Angerer, Kathy: D
S 0989 HOB / 517-373-1792
kathyangerer@house.mi.gov

056
Ebli, Kate: D
N 0990 HOB / 517-373-2617
KateEbli@house.mi.gov

057
Spade, Dudley: D
N 0991 HOB / 517-373-1706
dspade@house.mi.gov

058
Caswell, Bruce: R
N 0992 HOB / 517-373-1794
brucecaswell@house.mi.gov

059
Shaffer, Rick: R
N 0993 HOB / 517-373-0832
rickshaffer@house.mi.gov

060
Jones, Robert: D
N 0994 HOB / 517-373-1785
robertjones@house.mi.gov

061
Hoogendyk, Jacob: R
N 0995 HOB / 517-373-1774
jackhoogendyk@house.mi.gov

062
Nofs, Mike: R
N 0996 HOB / 517-373-0555
mikenofs@house.mi.gov

063
Wenke, Lorence: R
N 0997 HOB / 517-373-1787
lorencewenke@house.mi.gov

064
Griffin, Martin: D
N 0998 HOB / 517-373-1795
martingriffin@house.mi.gov

065
Simpson, Mike: D
N 0999 HOB / 517-373-1775
mikesimpson@house.mi.gov

066
Ward, Chris: R
141 CB / 517-373-1784
chrisward@house.mi.gov

067
Byrum, Barb: D
S 1086 HOB / 517-373-0587
barbyrum@house.mi.gov

068
Bauer, Joan: D
S 1087 HOB / 517-373-0826
joanbauer@house.mi.gov

069
Meadows, Mark: D
S 1088 HOB / 517-373-1786
markmeadows@house.mi.gov

070
Emmons, Judy: R
S 1089 HOB / 517-373-0834
judyemmons@house.mi.gov

071
Jones, Rick: R
N 1090 HOB / 517-373-0853
rickjones@house.mi.gov

072
Steil Jr., Glenn: R
N 1091 HOB / 517-373-0840
glennsteil@house.mi.gov

073
Pearce, Tom: R
N 1092 HOB / 517-373-0218
tompearce@house.mi.gov

074
Agema, David: R
N 1093 HOB / 517-373-8900
daveagema@house.mi.gov

075
Dean, Robert: D
N 1094 HOB / 517-373-2668
robertdean@house.mi.gov

076
Sak, Michael: D
251 CB / 517-373-0822
representativesak@house.mi.gov

077
Green, Kevin: R
N 1096 HOB / 517-373-2277
kevingreen@house.mi.gov

078
Nitz, Neal: R
N 1097 HOB / 517-373-1796
nealnitz@house.mi.gov

079
Proos, John: R
N 1098 HOB / 517-373-1403
johnproos@house.mi.gov

080
Schuitmaker, Tonya: R
N 1099 HOB / 517-373-0839
tonyaschuitmaker@house.mi.gov

081
Pavlov, Phil: R
S 1185 HOB / 517-373-1790
phillipavlov@house.mi.gov

082
Stahl, John: R
S 1186 HOB / 517-373-1800
johnstahl@house.mi.gov

083
Espinoza, John: D
S 1187 HOB / 517-373-0835
johnespinoza@house.mi.gov

084
Brown, Terry: D
S 1188 HOB / 517-373-0476
terrybrown@house.mi.gov

085
Ball, Richard: R
S 1189 HOB / 517-373-0841
richardball@house.mi.gov

086
Hildenbrand, Dave: R
N 1190 HOB / 517-373-0846
rephildenbrand@house.mi.gov

087
Calley, Brian: R
N 1191 HOB / 517-373-0842
briancalley@house.mi.gov

088
Sheen, Fulton: R
N 1192, HOB / 517-373-0836
fultonsheen@house.mi.gov

089
Meekhof, Arlan: R
N 1193 HOB / 517-373-0838
arlanmeekhof@house.mi.gov

090
Huizenga, Bill: R
N 1194 HOB / 517-373-0830
billhuizenga@house.mi.gov

091
Valentine, Mary: D
N 1195 HOB / 517-373-3436
maryvalentine@house.mi.gov

092
Bennett, Doug: D
N 1196 HOB / 517-373-2646
dougbenett@house.mi.gov

093
Opsommer, Paul: R
N 1197 HOB / 517-373-1778
paulopsommer@house.mi.gov

094
Horn, Kenneth: R
N 1198 HOB / 517-373-0837
kennethhorn@house.mi.gov

095
Coulouris, Andy: D
N 1199 HOB / 517-373-0152
andycoulouris@house.mi.gov

096
Mayes, Jeff: D
S 1285 HOB / 517-373-0158
jeffmayes@house.mi.gov

097
Moore, Tim: R
S 1286 HOB / 517-373-8962
timmoore@house.mi.gov

098
Moolenaar, John: R
S 1287 HOB / 517-373-1791
johnmoolenaar@house.mi.gov

099
Caul, Bill: R
S 1288 HOB / 517-373-1789
billcaul@house.mi.gov

100
Hansen, Goeff: R
S 1289 HOB / 517-373-7317
goeffhansen@house.mi.gov

101
Palsrok, David: R
S 1386 HOB / 517-373-0825
davidpalsrok@house.mi.gov

102
Booher, Darwin: R
S 1386 HOB / 517-373-1747
darwinbooher@house.mi.gov

103
Sheltrown, Joel: D
S 1386 HOB / 517-373-3817
joelsheltrown@house.mi.gov

104
Walker, Howard: R
S 1388 HOB / 517-373-1766
howardwalker@house.mi.gov

105
Elsenheimer, Kevin: R
S 1389 HOB / 517-373-0829
kevinelsenheimer@house.mi.gov

106
Gillard, Matthew: D
S 1485 HOB / 517-373-0833
matthewgillard@house.mi.gov

107
McDowell, Gary: D
S 1486 HOB / 517-373-2629
garymcdowell@house.mi.gov

108
Casper, Tom: R
S 1487 HOB / 517-373-0156
tomcasper@house.mi.gov

109
Lindberg, Steven: D
S 1488 HOB / 517-373-0498
stevenlindberg@house.mi.gov

110
Lahti, Michael: D
S 1489 HOB / 517-373-0850
mikelahti@house.mi.gov



I'M JUST A BILL

MichiganMichiganVotes.org

A sampling of proposed state laws, as described on MichiganVotes.org

HOUSE BILL 5622
(Declare blueberry as the official state fruit)

Introduced by state Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker, R – Lawton

Establishes in law that henceforth the blueberry (*Vaccinium Cyanococcus*) shall be designated as the official State of Michigan fruit. Note: At present, Michigan does not have an official state fruit. Past bills have proposed designating the cherry as the official state fruit and apple cider as the official state beverage.

HOUSE BILL 4040
(Require state to pay off Detroit schools deficit)

Introduced by state Rep. LaMar Lemmons Jr., D – Detroit

Requires the state to assume the deficit incurred by the Detroit School District during the period prior to 2006 when it was under the control of a state-imposed reform school board. In 2004 the district had a \$122 million deficit.

HOUSE BILL 5563
(Establish in law official state “Bo Schembechler Day”)

Introduced by state Rep. Rebekah Warren, D – Ann Arbor

Establishes in law that henceforth the day upon which the first University of Michigan home football game occurs each year shall be designated as the official State of Michigan “Bo Schembechler Day.”

HOUSE BILL 5885
(Exempt seniors from “driver responsibility fees”)

Introduced by state Rep. Edward Gaffney, R – Grosse Pointe

Exempts individuals age 62 or older from the “driver responsibility fees” (“bad driver fees”) that are assessed for various violations. These very expensive fees were originally adopted in 2003 to raise revenue so as to avoid spending cuts in that year’s and subsequent state government budgets.

HOUSE BILL 4771
(Impose licensure on interior designers)

Introduced by state Rep. Andy Meisner, D – Ferndale

Imposes licensure and regulation on interior designers, with \$70 annual license fees. The bill is part of a legislative package comprised of House Bills 4770 to 4772; this bill establishes the fee.

HOUSE BILL 4133
(Ban implanting microchip in a person without consent)

Introduced by state Rep. Tom Pearce, R – Rockford

Prohibit and provide penalties for implanting a radio frequency identification (RFID) microchip in another person without their consent.

SENATE BILL 943
(Rename portion of M-72)

Introduced by state Sen. Tony Stamas, R – Midland

Rename a certain portion of M-72 as the “Hazen Shirley ‘Kiki’ Cuyler Memorial Highway.”

HOUSE BILL 5207
(Authorize specialty plates for Grand Rapids sports teams)

Introduced by state Rep. Michael Sak, D – Grand Rapids

Authorize specialty license plates for the Grand Rapids Griffins, Grand Rapids Rampage and West Michigan Whitecaps professional sports teams. Proceeds from the sale of the plates for the first two teams would go to the Grand Rapids Griffins youth foundation and from the third team to the YMCA intercity youth baseball and softball programs.