



SB 680 Update

Senate Bill 680, introduced by Senator Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township), prohibits county road commissions from exercising authority over seasonal docks at road ends. This legislation, supported by MWA, may see action in the near future in the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, chaired by Senator David Robertson (R-Grand Blanc). The legislation will clarify that a “local unit of government” is defined as the city, village or township where the road end is located, taking road commissions out of the process.

SB 680 passed the Senate unanimously, and is likely to be reported out of the House Local Government Committee during the week of May 12.

Matt Kurta of Karoub Associates is working together on this legislation with Public Affairs Associates, representing the Higgins Lake Property Owners’ Association.

Invasive Species Update

Governor Snyder’s proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 included an additional \$6 million (\$4 million annually, \$2 million in one-time funding) to help the DNR prevent, fight and manage terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Sixty percent of the funding was intended for "boots on the ground" projects, fifteen percent to establish best practices and twenty-five percent increase education and outreach.

As introduced, the spending would add 16 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) state employee positions dedicated to invasive species - Five

each for DNR, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) plus one for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

As of this writing, the Senate and House have passed their respective versions of the budget. The Senate version closely mirrors the Governor's recommendation with a slight increase in the \$6 million. However, the House version scaled the number of FTEs down to 4, reduced the overall line-item by \$1 million, and dedicated the rest of the remaining funding to grants. While MWA appreciates the inclusion of this funding, the House-passed version is preferable as it dedicates more money to treatment. Either way, the inclusion of this funding opens the door to future discussions surrounding greater participation by the state in fighting invasive species and taking some of the load off of lakefront property owners. The budget process is likely to wrap-up in mid-May, so now is the time to contact your legislators to thank them for appropriating state general fund dollars towards fighting invasive species and to ask them to direct as much funding as possible from this appropriation to grants.

Additionally, the Senate Natural Resources Committee is considering a bill package (Senate Bills 795-802) that increases penalties for transport and/or release of aquatic invasive species, including fines, license suspension, and seizure of equipment.

Gas tax

The House of Representatives approved a \$450 million road funding package on May 14. While this package does not meeting the Governor's goal of \$2 billion in increased investment, passage is notable, as it represents the first major legislative action to change how transportation is funded in Michigan since 1997. The bipartisan package passed the House overwhelmingly, and largely encompasses the following changes:

- Shifts a portion of sales tax to roads,
- Repeals the current gas tax in favor of a percentage-based tax on the wholesale price of gas,
- Enacts diesel tax parity,
- Expands warranties on state & local road projects,
- Shifts a portion of use tax to roads,
- Allows the state to contract for road maintenance services,
- Requires limited competitive bidding for county road commission projects,

- Increases fines for overweight/oversized vehicles, and
- Reforms state registration fees, eliminating some credits & reductions

The package now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

BILL	SPONSOR	PARTY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
HB 4095	Rep. Greg MacMaster	R	Convert certain watercraft violations from misdemeanors to civil infractions	Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice
HB 4096	Rep. Greg MacMaster	R	Exempt certain barges from lighting requirements	Referred to House Committee on Regulatory Reform
HB 4106	Rep. Bob Genetski	R	Clarify allowable use of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for dredging of Great Lakes Harbors	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4122	Rep. Dian Slavens	D	Regulate exploration and operation of oil & gas wells in residential areas	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4208	Rep. Dale Zorn	R	Revise residency requirements for resort districts	PA 245 of 2013
HB 4179	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Allows tax increment financing for waterways dredging	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4197	Rep. Frank Foster	R	Appropriates \$30 million to DNR for waterways dredging	Referred to House Appropriations Committee
HB 4234	Rep. Andrea LaFontaine	R	Provide for sales tax on the difference between trade-in and purchase price for motor vehicles & titled watercraft	Public Act 159 of 2013
HB 4298	Rep. Jon Bumstead	R	Allow delinquent property tax notices to be posted online	House floor
HB 4339	Rep. Ed McBroom	R	Exempt county road commissions from wetland mitigation	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

HB 4358	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Eliminate flat gas tax and create refund period	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4359	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Establish wholesale gas tax	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4398	Rep. Amanda Price	R	Revise permit fee for Great Lakes bottomlands dredging	Public Act 11 of 2013
HB 4399	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Create expedited permit process in dredging emergencies	Public Act 12 of 2013
HB 4400	Rep. Peter Pettalia	R	Revise permit fee for Great Lakes bottomlands dredging	Public Act 13 of 2013
HB 4401	Rep. Peter Pettalia	R	Exempt certain mining operations from inland lakes & streams permit requirements	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4410	Rep. Andrea LaFontaine	R	Establishes marina dredging loan origination program	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4441 & 4442	Rep. Matt Lori	R	Revises penalties for operating watercraft while intoxicated or impaired	House floor
HB 4489	Rep. Thomas Stallworth	D	Authorize permit for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4495	Rep. Dan Lauwers	R	Authorize permit for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4510	Rep. Peter MacGregor	R	Authorize disposal of water-softening residuals through specific permitted facilities	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4539	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Eliminate sales tax on gasoline	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

HB 4622	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Revise local drainage district boundaries	Referred to House Committee on Local Government
HB 4608	Rep. Shirkey	R	Increase registration fee for vehicles not subject to motor fuel or diesel fuel tax	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4630	Rep. McCreedy	R	Modify vehicle registration fees	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4632	Rep. Schmidt	R	Increase vehicle registration tax and create new registration tax for hybrid and alternative vehicles	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4634	Rep. Schmidt	R	Modify trailer registration fees	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4655	Rep. Yonker	R	Modify streamlined use tax on vehicles	Referred to House Committee on Tax Policy
HB 4678	Rep. Daley	R	Require water withdrawal dispute process for agricultural wells	Passed House, referred to Senate Committee on Government Operations
HB 4768	Rep. Crawford	R	Prohibit DEQ from limiting sodium concentration in groundwater discharge	Public Act 180 of 2013
HB 4793	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Allow drainage district to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire right of way on private property	PA 262 of 2013
HB 4840	Rep. Nesbitt	R	Eliminate permit requirement for suction weed harvesting	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4841	Rep. Irwin	D	Create pesticide notification registry	Referred to House Committee on Regulatory Reform

HB 4856	Rep. Dillon	D	Allow local unit of government to charge for emergency rescue service during an emergency if individual was grossly negligent	House floor
HB 4857	Rep. VerHeulen	R	Allow local unit of government to charge for emergency rescue service during an emergency if individual was grossly negligent	House floor
HB 4885	Rep. Nesbitt	R	Reduce severance tax on production oil & gas from enhanced recovery projects	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4899	Rep. Roberts	D	Require notice & public hearing prior to authorizing hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4900	Rep. Irwin	D	Require disclosure with respect to hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4901	Rep. Hovey-Wright	D	Provide for study of hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4902	Rep. Tlaib	D	Create presumption of liability from chemicals utilized in hydraulic fracturing process	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4903	Rep. McCann	D	Require water withdrawal assessment tool for certain oil & gas operators	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4904	Rep. Driskell	D	Eliminate preemption of local zoning of hydraulic fracturing operations	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4905	Rep. Cochran	D	Prohibit usage of flowback water from hydraulic fracturing as dust suppression tool on dirt roads	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4906	Rep. Barnett	D	Modify setback requirements for oil & gas wells	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 5107	Rep. Joe Graves	R	Create minor permit category for repair or replacement of a seawall	Passed House, on Senate floor

HB 5210	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Remove acreage cap & approve DNR strategic land management plan	Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
SB 11	Sen. Tory Rocca	R	Establish sale prices as presumptive true cash value when a property is sold	Referred to Senate Finance Committee
SB 25	Sen. Dave Hildenbrand	R	Revise appeal process for personal residence exemptions	Public Act 140 of 2013
SB 78	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Prohibit DNR designation of biodiversity areas	Passed the Senate, Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources
SB 84-88	Senate Republicans	R	Gas tax package	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 89 & 90	Sen. Dave Robertson	R	Provide for sales tax on the difference between trade-in and purchase price for motor vehicles & titled watercraft	SB 89 is now Public Act 160 of 2013, SB 90 is now PA 234 of 2013
SB 163	Sen. Mike Green	R	Revises permit exemptions for wetlands & inland lakes and streams, and requires additional justification from Department for denial of Part 13 permits	PA 98 of 2013
SB 164	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Appropriates \$30 million to DNR for waterways dredging	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 214	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Expand appropriate use of MNRTF dollars	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 215	Sen. Jack Brandenburg	R	Reinstate state marina dredging loan program	Referred to Senate Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Committee
SB 218	Sen. Goeff Hansen	R	Allow water resource improvement tax increment finance authority to continue, and allow dredging	Public Act 25 of 2013
SB 229	Sen. John Moolenaar	R	Clarify that MNRTF dollars can be used for recreational dredging	On Senate Floor
SB 233	Sen. Darwin Boher	R	Appropriates MNRTF projects for FY 2012	PA 9 of 2013

SB 243	Sen. Darwin Booher	R	Requires half of Waterways Commission spending over next three fiscal years to be dedicated to recreational boating infrastructure, including breakwalls & dredging	Passed Senate, Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
SB 252	Sen. Jack Brandenburg	R	Establishes marina dredging loan origination program	PA 10 of 2013
SB 264	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Modify procedures for dredging permit issuance	PA 87 of 2013
SB 266	Sen. Mike Green	R	Authorize permits for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 351	Sen. Arlan Meekhof	R	Clarifies that appropriate application of fertilizer is not a release	Public Act 141 of 2013
SB 394	Sen. Hune	R	Prohibit DEQ from limiting sodium concentration in groundwater discharge	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 444	Sen. Casperson	R	Revises aquatic species permit requirements, creates aquatic species database and website identifying infested lakes, and allows local ordinances and fees for aquatic nuisance control	On Senate Floor
SB 445	Sen. Booher	R	Remove Departmental authority to revise list of prohibited or restricted species	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 472	Sen. Walker	R	Modifications to State Survey and Remonumentation Act	Passed Senate, Referred to House Committee on Local Government
SB 662	Sen. Robertson	R	Create minor permit category for repair or replacement of a seawall	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 680	Sen. Kowall	R	Prohibit county road commission from exercising oversight of road end seasonal docks	Referred to Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

SB 795-802	Senate Republicans	R	Increased penalties for transport and/or release of aquatic invasive species, such as fines, license suspension & seizure of equipment	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
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