

2023 Senate Activity

Bill #	Sponsor	Name	Description	Position	Last Legislative Action
SB 13	Moss (D)	Presidential Primary Election	Revises the presidential primary election date to the fourth Tuesday of February beginning in 2024. Michigan will now be the fifth state in the union to hold a presidential primary.	N/A	Signed by Governor on 2/1/23
SB 15	Theis (R)	Prohibited Use of TikTok on Public Devices	Would amend PA 196 of 1973 to prohibit a public officer or employee from using TikTok on an electronic device that is owned, managed, or controlled by the public officer's or employee's employer. TikTok is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance.	Neutral	Sent to Labor Committee (1/17/23)
SB 17	Wojno (D)	Regulation of Consumer Fireworks	Would amend PA 256 of 2018 by amending the time number of days that local units of government can limit to use consumer fireworks in Michigan. When this law took effect in 2019, local units of a certain size were, by ordinance, allowed to limit the use of consumer fireworks to the day before, day of, and day after certain federal holidays. This law resulted in a high number of complaints from residents, who called for the restrictions to be tightened. The proposed SB0017 would allow local units to limit the discharge to a tighter window of days and times. It also imposes bigger fines for violation of said ordinances. This is really a localized issue that should be decided the local units' governing bodies. As such, a neutral position is recommended.	Neutral	Sent to Senate Local Government Committee (1/17/23)
SB 20	McBroom (R)	Property Tax Appeals Process	Would amend PA 105 of 1986 by requiring Michigan counties to establish and maintain a "county board of revision", the purpose of which is to fulfil the duties of a local board of review for certain classes of property that are of a higher complexity and value that can be reasonably be evaluated by certain local boards of review. As you may be aware, boards of review are established in each local unit of government and are responsible for hearing appeals by property owners on their assessed taxable values (both real and personal property). They are comprised of local residents who may not always have the knowledge or expertise to make decisions on complex property tax appeals, such as commercial or industrial appeals. The newly-established county board of revision would be comprised of 3 members who are experienced in property tax or real estate values and are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. They would review appeals on commercial and industrial real and personal property with estimated values of \$600een introduce	Neutral	Sent to Senate Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection Committee (1/17/23)

SB 129 (tie barred to SB 130-132)	Singh (D)	Brownfield Redevelopment Financing <i>(bill summary and evaluation by Paul Sachs after conferring with a Fishbeck staff person who helped to draft the legislation and a Crain's Detroit article that analyzed it.)</i>	<p>Would amend PA 381 of 1996 (Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act). The impetus for the introduction of this legislation is the recent increased use of Land Bank Authorities (LBAs) to gain access to Act 381 incentives for the purpose of supporting housing projects. This is being done because many funding streams for housing are "one time money", and currently there are few mechanisms in place that make funding support for housing readily available on an ongoing basis. The intent is to codify support for housing projects into Act 381 itself so that complex projects involving both LBAs and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities (BRAs) will no longer be necessary – the Act can be used to directly benefit housing related projects. If passed, the new legislation would offer more ways to use the capture to benefit housing projects compare to the LBA/BRA approach.</p> <p>In addition to eliminating the need to involve LBAs, another benefit is that this is a tool that could be used to support housing in more rural areas and/or smaller scale projects, however, the potential complexity of projects that would use the newly proposed TIF mechanism might deter small rural communities from using it due to lack of staff capacity to manage it. If that were to be the case, the County BRA may be able to assist with project management as we do in other brownfield situations. The allowable costs to develop a TIF plan is increased in the bill, and we can be confident that much if not all of that will go to law firms that will be needed to write the plan and manage the reporting & metrics.</p> <p>There is wide variation in acceptance and use of TIF as a development tool overall. Adding the housing support components might make TIF a more appealing option to some communities who typically do not support TIF. As with any other TIF project, ultimately the local unit decides which TIF projects to approve for their community and why.</p> <p>Backers of the legislation include MSHDA, affordable housing advocates and groups representing home builders, municipalities and businesses. Supporters also view the addition of housing incentives to Act 381 as an economic development tool because it has the potential to help to address the lack of workforce housing. School organizations oppose the bills because of a reduction in tax revenue. The nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency estimated an "indeterminate" negative impact on state and local tax revenue, including the School Aid Fund. Other opposition arguments include opportunity for abuse by landlords. 13 republicans in the Senate opposed the bill. 5 supported it. All 20 democrats supported.</p>	Neutral	Passed by Senate (3/23/23)
SB 155	Johnson (R)	Election Voting Equipment	Would amend PA 116 of 1954 (Michigan Election Law) to prohibit all electronic voting equipment acquired on or after July 1, 2023 from including any parts or equipment produced or provided by an entity that has any covered communications equipment or service listed on the FCC's website as required under 47 USC 1601. Would not prohibit to repair, maintenance or acquisition of componenets necessary for propoer opertation of voting equipment. acquired before July 1. Clerk Roebuck is aware of and monitoring this bill for its impact on county elections. The short and long term impacts are not yet known, so a position on this bill is TBD.	TBD	Sent to Elections and Etics Committee (3/8/23)
SB 245	Wojno (D)	Vehicle Registration	Similar to HB 4074, would require the Secretary of State to return all vehicle registration fees to the county in which the registrant resides to be distributed to the county road commission. According to the Road Commission, approximately \$44,250,000 in registration fees from Ottawa County residents will be collected in 2023. If 100% of these are returned to county road agencies (i,e, the Road Commission, cities and villages), a there should be a net increase in road funding for all county roads. It is however wexpected to have a negative impact on rural counties where fewer vehicles are registered. A position of support is recommended for this bill.	Support	Sent to Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (3/23/23)

SB 183-84 Moss (D)

Establishment of a Revenue
Sharing Trust Fund

Similar to HB 4274-75, would amend PA 489 of 2000 (Michigan trust fund act) to establish a revenue sharing trust fund for the purpose of depositing and holding authorized constitutional and statutory revenue sharing dollars allocated to local units of government. Historically, the legislature has "dipped in" to obligated revenue sharing funds for the purpose of balancing their own state budgets, a practice that has been sharply criticized across the state. This bill would hopefully help rectify that problem by ensuring revenue sharing dollars are not reallocated elsewhere. Until the final details and specifics of this bill are known, the County should not take a position other than to say it agrees with the concept.

TBD

Sent to Finance,
Insurance, and
Consumer Protection
Committee (3/15/23)

2023 House Activity						
Bill #	Sponsor	Name	Description	Position	Last Legislative Action	
HB 4033	Paiz (D)	State Reimbursement Costs Related to Special Elections	Would amend PA 116 of 1954 by adding a section that states <i>"If a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator or representative and the governor directs that the vacancy be filled at a special election in that senatorial or representative district, and that special election is held on a date other than a regular election date, this state shall reimburse each county, city, or township for the cost of conducting the special election. The reimbursement must not exceed the verified account of actual costs of the special election as provided in this section."</i> Funds for reimbursement would be allocated from the state General Fund. To qualify for reimbursement, the local unit must submit its actual cost within 90 days after the date of the special election. Because this bill would reimburse the County and its local units for costs associated with state activity, support of this bill is recommended.	Support	Sent to House by Tax Policy Committee (2/1/23), Reported in House (3/7/23)	
HB 4052	Lightner (R)	Property Tax Transfer of Ownership Exemption	Would amend PA 206 of 1893 (General Property Tax Law) by adding a provision that expands the exemptions for a property's taxable value from being "uncapped" to include when a property is transferred to a son or daughter-in-law of the transferor, or the transferor's spouse. This will result on an overall reduction in property taxes collected by the County when these types of property transfers occur. A neutral position is recommended.	Neutral	Sent to House by Tax Policy Committee (2/1/23)	
HB 4074	Aragona (R)	Vehicle Registration Fees	Would amend PA 300 of 1949 (Michigan vehicle code) to require vehicle registration fees to be returned by the secretary of state to each county in the proportion of vehicles currently registered in that county in relation to the total number of registered vehicles in the state (currently, these fees are deposited into the Michigan transportation fund and dispersed by a formula). These monies would then be required to be distributed to each local road agency operating in the county, based on the number of lane miles. According to the Road Commission, approximately \$44,250,000 in registration fees from Ottawa County residents will be collected in 2023. If 100% of these are returned to county road agencies (i.e. the Road Commission, cities and villages), a there should be a net increase in road funding for all county roads. However the bill is expected to have a negative impact on rural counties where fewer vehicles are registered. A position of support is recommended for this bill. A similar Bill (SB 245) has been introduced by the Senate.	Support	Sent to House Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure Committee (2/7/23)	
HB 4274-75	O'Neal (D) (co-sponsored by Slaugh)	Establishment of a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund	Similar to SB 183-84, would amend PA 489 of 2000 (Michigan trust fund act) to establish a revenue sharing trust fund for the purpose of depositing and holding authorized constitutional and statutory revenue sharing dollars allocated to local units of government. Historically, the legislature has "dipped in" to obligated revenue sharing funds for the purpose of balancing their own state budgets, a practice that has been sharply criticized across the state. This bill would hopefully help rectify that problem by ensuring revenue sharing dollars are not reallocated elsewhere. Until the final details and specifics of this bill are known, the County should not take a position other than to say it agrees with the concept.	TBD	Sent to Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee (3/14/23)	
HB 4306-07	Outman (R) (co-sponsored by Slaugh)	Determination of True Cash Value	Would amend PA 206 of 1893 (General Property Tax Act) by adding a provision that would use a 3-year rolling average to determine the true cash value (TCV) of a property. Currently, the law uses the 5% inflationary cap that was established under Proposal A to limit the amount of increase in value that a property can incur in one year during times of high inflation. This bill would complicate that process and would be detrimental to revenue streams for local units. A preferred option would be to reduce the cap to something less than 5%. This is a reactive bill that is being proposed during a time when property values are on the upswing. The recommendation from staff is to oppose this bill.	Oppose	Sent to Tax Policy Committee (3/21/23)	

HB 4329	DeBoyer (R)	Land Sales to Foreign Entities	Would amend 1846 RS 66 (Of estates in dower, by the courtesy, and general provisions concerning real estate) by adding prohibitions on certain foreign acquisition of certain real estate, and the prescription of remedies. Specifically, the bill states in part that a foreign person shall no longer purchase or otherwise acquire land in the State of Michigan. It is too early to know whether this bill will have enough support to pass, or the scope of its impact on Ottawa County property owners. Looking to the Board of Commissioners to provide direction on a position for this bill.	TBD	Sent to Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee (3/23/23)
HB 4330	Whitsett (D)	Property Tax Exemptions	Would amend PA 206 of 1893 (General Property Tax Act) by adding a provision that allows local units of government, by resolution, to grant full or partial property tax exemptions to individuals who are at least 65 years old based on their maximum income and asset levels. It is unknown whether any local unit in Ottawa County would pass such a resolution, but doing so could have a significant impact on tax revenues. Looking to the Board of Commissioners to provide direction on a position for this bill.	TBD	Sent to House Tax Policy Committee (3/23/23)
HB 4338	St. Germaine (R)	Personal Property Tax Exemptions	Would amend PA 206 of 1893 (General Property Tax Law) by doubling the top-end value (i.e. from \$180,000 to \$360,000) of the total combined value of personal property that may be exempted from collection. Personal property tax exemptions primarily benefit small business owners by allowing them to avoid paying taxes on business related furnishings and equipment that is not considered real property (e.g. expensive equipment in a dentist's office). Therefore, this bill would directly benefit county businesses that have higher-valued personal property that they pay taxes on. Currently, lost revenues from exempted PPT valued at over \$80,000 up to \$180,000 PPT are refunded in full to the local units by the state. It is unknown if the additional amount of lost revenue will also be fully refunded in kind by the state because no funding source has been identified yet. If a funding source is identified and the local units can be reimbursed in full, the County should support this bill.	TBD	Sent to House Tax Policy Committee (3/23/23)
HB 4460 & 62	DeSana (R)	Land Use Regulations for Egg-Laying Hens	Would amend PA 110 of 2006 (Michigan zoning enabling law) to prohibit local units from restricting the keeping of egg-laying hens, either by right or through special land use. Like the short-term rental issue, this bill is viewed as a government overreach that would effectively remove local zoning control and decisions from our local units.	Oppose	Sent to Agricultural Committee (4/25/23)
HB 4463	Meerman	Shallow Wells	Allows shallow wells drilled on personal property for non-potable water, with Health Department approval.	Support	Sent to Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Rec Committee (4/25/23)