

MICHIGAN
CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL

A review of the votes and proposals of the Michigan Legislature — Vol. 2, No. 6 — November/December 2008

A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both.
JAMES MADISON

POWER FAILURE

New “Clean” Energy Law Hikes Costs

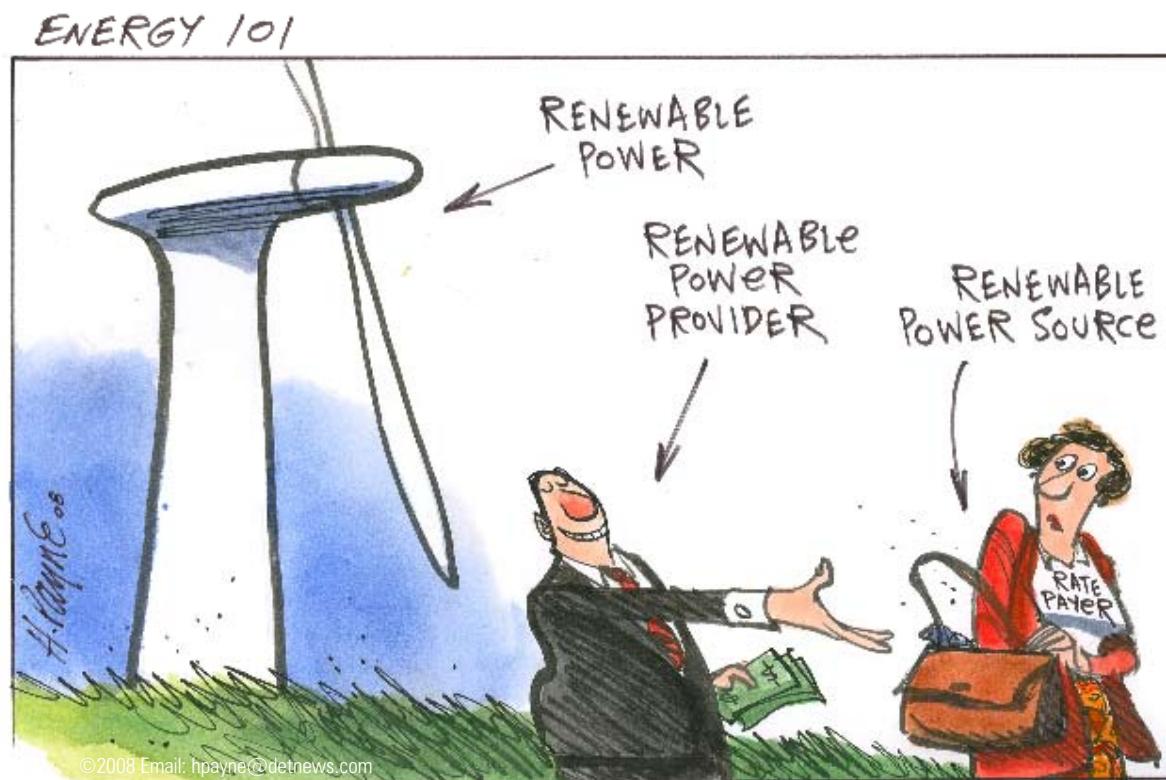
On Sept. 18, the Michigan Legislature overwhelmingly approved Senate Bill 213, which mandates that by 2015 electricity suppliers acquire at least 10 percent of their power from “clean” and “renewable” sources and pass along the additional costs to their customers.

In addition to wind and solar, the alternative power sources allowed under the mandate include biomass, geothermal, and more, but not nuclear energy, which already accounts for al-

most 26 percent of the electricity generated in Michigan and produces none of the carbon emissions that some believe cause a harmful rise in global temperatures. (The new law would also allow for some restricted use of clean coal technology to meet the mandate.)

To offset anticipated cost increases from the alternative energy mandate, the electric utilities, whose prices are regulated by the Michigan Public

See “Power Failure,” Page 4



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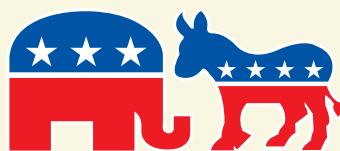
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Right-to-Work Bill Rejected

14 House Republicans vote “nay”

Despite evidence that a majority of union members support the right of a worker to opt out of union membership and dues, a sizable majority of the Michigan House of Representatives recently rejected an amendment that would have turned Michigan into a right-to-work state.

According to the MIRS Capitol Capsule daily newsletter (www.mirsnews.com – subscription required), House Bill 4454, introduced by state Rep. Jack Hoogendyk, R-Portage, would “give workers in a union shop an opt-out of participating or paying dues to a union.” Since it was unlikely that this right-to-work bill would be taken up for consideration by the Democratic majority in the state House, state Rep.

Arlan Meekof, R-West Olive, on Sept. 16 sponsored an amendment to tie-bar House Bill 4454 to House Bill 6256.

Attaching a tie-bar would have meant that the latter bill would not become law unless the former one was approved as well. Tie-bars are sometimes used as a means of forcing lawmakers to support legislation that they do not want as a condition of getting votes for bills that they do want.

House Bill 6256 was one bill in a larger package of legislation that would “add a number of requirements for nursing home licensees and applicants for nursing home licenses,” according to a House Fiscal Agency memo. The Democratic leadership of the House supported passage of the nursing home bills, while the Health Care Association of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging both opposed them. Michiganvotes.org and MIRS each note that the bills

See “Right-to-Work,” Page 9

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Us v. Them

The People and the Political Class

by Jack McHugh

The fundamental problem facing our nation is that true representative government has been supplanted by an inbred, self-serving, self-perpetuating political class that does not represent the people. As a result, the government has escaped the control of the people.

Evidence is all around. For example, whether or not one agrees with the policy, for decades term limits have been consistently favored by an overwhelming majority. Yet they are opposed and sabotaged by the political class at every opportunity (most recently in New York City, where the city

See “Us vs. Them,” Page 8

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

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House Bill 6130 would impose \$500 fines on retailers who sell "novelty lighters," such as the one pictured here. It is shaped like a hand grenade and makes shooting noises when lit.



Novelty Lighters, Annie Oakley and Other Random Acts of Legislating

What follows are short descriptions of several bills that have been brought up for a vote in the Legislature. The roll call votes for each bill begin on page 6. For an opportunity to comment on these bills, please see www.mackinac.org/9955.

"Random Acts" continued on Page 6

You Can't Handle the Truth!

Do you tell your lawmaker about what you read in this newspaper?

WE WERE RIGHT; YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WAS WRONG



Dear Readers:

The graphic above shows the text of a recent e-mail sent to Michigan Capitol Confidential. A reader reports confronting a Republican state representative about his spending record as reported in the article titled "Are We Nuts?" from the July/August 2008 issue of Michigan Capitol Confidential. The lawmaker allegedly responded that we had reported his vote incorrectly, causing the reader — whose name we have redacted to protect his privacy — to write us and demand an apology.

We replied to the e-mail, saying that we appreciate and encourage fact-checking of our stories and want our readers to keep both this paper and the lawmakers informed about their thoughts

regarding what they read.

But the truth of the matter is that the lawmaker in question did vote as we reported, at least according to the Journal of the House of Representatives, the official — and thus far uncontested — record of the event. He was one of five Republicans voting to approve a spending level that was \$32 million in excess of estimated revenue for the school aid budget.

We bring this to your attention because it marked the beginning of a trend. A few days after mailing the Sept./Oct. 2008 edition, we received a phone call from a reader who said she spoke to a Republican senator about his decision to vote in favor of an amendment that would have — in the opinion of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce — turned owner-

ship of groundwater "over to the government." As before, the confronted legislator allegedly denied the act; this time, according to our caller, telling her that "you can't believe what you read" in Michigan Capitol Confidential.

Once again, we checked right away and verified that Michigan Capitol Confidential and the Journal of the Senate both agree on how the senator in question voted. In this case, the legislator was one of two GOP senators to vote in favor of the amendment, with the 18 other Republicans in the senate voting against it.

These stories and other feedback indicate that a lot of you are talking to your lawmakers about what you're reading in these pages. Of course, we want to know all the juicy details about that! So we're going to start a little contest.

If you reference what you've read in Michigan Capitol Confidential while writing a note to a politician or in a published letter that appears in one of Michigan's newspapers, then we want a copy. If the politician writes you back, we want to see that as well.

Please send your entries to:
Michigan Capitol Confidential
c/o Contest
140 West Main Street
Midland, MI 48640
or email micapcon@mackinac.org

We'll start publishing some of these entries, along with your name, in forthcoming issues of Michigan Capitol Confidential. The most creative and thoughtful ones, as judged by our staff, will win a framed, original print of one of the cartoons that adorn our front page.

So have at it. We can't wait to see what YOU have to say for a change! ■

(Please remember to include your own name and address.)

POWER FAILURE

from Page One

Service Commission, would be permitted to hike rates by as much as \$3 per month on residential customers, \$16.58 per month for small businesses and \$187.50 per month for larger business customers. Some of the residential customers could take advantage of a temporary and partial income tax credit to help offset these increases. The legislation gives the MPSC the authority to defer the mandate if the commission decides that the cost imposed on the utilities is too high.

Senate Bill 213 may increase the cost of keeping the lights on if government mandates are permitted to replace market decisions.

Government mandates would not be necessary if renewable energy sources were abundant and cost-effective, according to "Proposals to Further Regulate Michigan's Electricity Market," a policy brief published by the Mackinac Center in May (www.mackinac.org/9467.) Co-authored by Center adjunct scholars Diane S. Katz and Dr. Theodore Bolema, J.D., the report quotes an energy industry representative: "Fossil units and nuclear power have a huge inherent cost and deliverability advantage over renewables due to the concentrated energy in the fuel compared to the diffuse and variable energy of wind, solar and hydro."

Quite literally, energy that is 'blowin' in the wind' is much more difficult and expensive to collect and convert into electricity than energy that is already stored in small, dense packages.

Katz and Bolema also point out that economic and energy experts disagree regarding how much electrical generation capacity Michigan is going to need over the coming decade.

The brief cites a recent report from the former MPSC chairman that projects a 1.3 percent annual growth in power needs through 2025. This new estimate had been cut 40 percent from what the MPSC projected just one year earlier.

Other observers predict even less usage. The authors note a December 2006 report created for the Michigan House of Representatives by the Anderson Economic Group that projected Michigan's existing capacity would be "adequate" to meet future needs. And Mackinac Center Senior Economist David Littmann, former senior economist for Comerica Bank and a veteran expert on Michigan's economy, is estimating that the state's ongoing loss of jobs, income and population will lead to a net reduction in electricity demand.

Regardless of whether just a little bit of extra power is needed or none at all, Senate Bill 213 may increase the cost of keeping the lights on if government mandates are permitted to replace market decisions regarding electricity generation.

Moreover, if the proponents of the mandate seek a smaller "carbon footprint" for Michigan's electricity industry, then they have excluded one of the most economically viable energy alternatives for bringing about this goal. Nuclear power produces zero carbon emissions and already supplies more than one-quarter of Michigan's electricity with just three power plants. Many developed economies, such as France and Sweden, acquire a substantially larger share of their power from nuclear energy: 77 percent of France's electric power comes from 59 nuclear reactors.

But if more electricity were generated from nuclear fuel, it would not count as part of the 10 percent renewable mandate created by Senate Bill 213.

Senate Bill 213 was tie-barred to House Bill 5524, which mandated additional changes to Michigan's energy

laws. A tie-bar means that one bill could not become law without the other. This second bill was a complicated mix of alterations that both reform and restrict market competition. Michiganvotes.org describes the bill as such:

"...would mostly end the state's electric competition law that allows customers to choose an alternative provider; allow the utilities to impose surcharges on customers so they can recoup the 'costs' incurred from Michigan's

experiment with competitive electricity markets; and phase out over five years the current cross-subsidization of residential customers by commercial and industrial ones. The bill would guarantee DTE and Consumers Power at least 90

Check MichiganVotes.org

"Power Failure" Legislators who voted TO MANDATE the production of "renewable" energy and pass additional costs on to ratepayers:

SENATE REPUBLICANS (9)

Allen (R)	Bishop (R)	Hardiman (R)	Richardville (R)	Van Woerkom (R)
Birkholz (R)	Gilbert (R)	McManus (R)	Stamas (R)	

SENATE DEMOCRATS (17)

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

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (28)

Ball (R)	Gaffney (R)	Hune (R)	Meltzer (R)	Pastor (R)	Walker (R)
Booher (R)	Green (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Moore (R)	Pearce (R)	Ward (R)
Calley (R)	Hansen (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Nofs (R)	Proos (R)	Wenke (R)
Caswell (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	LaJoy (R)	Opsommer (R)	Rocca (R)	
Caul (R)	Horn (R)	Marleau (R)	Palsrok (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (55)

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

Legislators who voted AGAINST MANDATING the production of "renewable" energy and passing the cost on to ratepayers:

SENATE REPUBLICANS (10)

Brown (R)	Cropsey (R)	Jansen (R)	Kahn (R)	Pappageorge (R)
Cassis (R)	George (R)	Jelinek (R)	Kuipers (R)	Sanborn (R)

SENATE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (24)

Acciavatti (R)	DeRoche (R)	Huizenga (R)	Nitz (R)	Sheen (R)
Agema (R)	Eisenheimer (R)	Law, David (R)	Palmer (R)	Stahl (R)
Amos (R)	Emmons (R)	Meekhof (R)	Pavlov (R)	Stakoe (R)
Brandenburg (R)	Garfield (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Robertson (R)	Steil (R)
Casperson (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Moss (R)	Shaffer (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Rep. Clack (D)	Rep. Jackson (D)	Rep. Smith, Virgil (D)	Sen. Garcia (R)	Sen. Patterson (R)
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2008 Senate Roll Call 557 on SB 213
2008 House Roll Call 756 on SB 213

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percent of the utility business in the areas they serve, even if other providers offer lower prices.”

According to Katz and Bolema, Michigan’s “experiment with electricity competition” coincided with substantial cost savings for ratepayers. Four years after other suppliers entered Michigan’s consumer electricity market, prices had fallen by 2 percent, even though prices nationwide increased by about 12 percent. The lower rates drove Michigan electricity costs below the national average, saving businesses and schools millions of dollars. The authors recommend that this experiment be continued and that other distortions in the electricity market be removed as well.

Hillsdale College economics professor Gary Wolfram, a spokesperson for the competitive energy providers, asserted that House Bill 5524 is “primarily designed to provide a monopoly of energy production for Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy.”

However, there is a pro-market reform contained in the bill that removes the discriminatory practice of forcing artificially higher rates on commercial customers to subsidize artificially low rates for residential customers. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce asserts that this bias had been in place for 30 years and essentially acted as a \$350 million tax on Michigan employ-

ers. The Mackinac Center report recommended removing this market distortion, pointing out that it not only impeded proper market competition, but also discouraged energy conservation amongst residential customers.

House Bill 5524 ends this policy, known as “rate-skewing,” over a five-year period, and is thus one reason why the Michigan Chamber, some other business groups and perhaps some lawmakers supported passage of this bill.

Senate Bill 213—the renewable energy mandate—was supported by 28 Republicans and 55 Democrats in the House of Representatives. Twenty-four House lawmakers, all Republicans, voted in opposition.

In the Senate, all 17 Democrats voted for the renewable energy mandate, along with 12 Republicans. Ten Republicans voted against the bill.

The renewable energy mandate became Public Act 295 of 2008 when it was signed into law by Gov. Jennifer Granholm on Oct. 6.

The Michiganvotes.org vote tally for Senate Bill 213 is to the left. The contact information for all lawmakers is on pages 10 and 11. ■

For additional information and an opportunity to comment on this issue, please see www.mackinac.org/9955.



PRO-UNION REPUBLICANS

Michigan’s largest public school employee union is the Michigan Education Association. This labor union has spoken out against: merit pay for teachers; hiring non-union private contractors to provide transportation, food and custodial services at public schools; and a right-to-work law that would allow individual teachers to opt out of the union and related membership dues.

Each election cycle, the labor union recommends candidates for contested offices at many levels of government. For the 2008 general election, the MEA claimed a greater than 90 percent success rate, having helped 93 out of 103 recommended candidates to victory, including 71 out of 79 of those seeking election to the 110-member state House of Representatives.

As is often the case, a large majority of these recommendations are given to Democratic Party candidates. However, there are often exceptions — this year the MEA recommendation was awarded and carried to victory by 11 of the 43 Republican state representatives who will serve in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

The list of MEA-recommended Republican lawmakers includes seven incumbents and four new members. Each of their names and the campaign Web sites for the new members is listed below. More complete contact information for the incumbent lawmakers is listed on page 11. The full list of MEA recommendations and additional contact information is available at www.meavotes.org/candidates.

Incumbents

Richard Ball, R-Laingsburg
Kevin Green, R-Wyoming
David Hildenbrand, R-Lowell
Rick Jones, R-Oneida Twp.
James Marleau, R-Lake Orion
Tim Moore, R-Farwell
Tory Rocca, R-Sterling Heights

New Members

Gail Haines, R-Lake Angelus (www.gailhaines.com)
Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake (www.votekowall.com)
Paul Scott, R-Grand Blanc (www.votepaulscott.com)
John Walsh, R-Livonia (www.electjohnwalsh.com)

CEOS FIND LEADERSHIP MIA IN MI

In competing with other states on matters of taxation and regulation, Michigan’s grade is currently an ‘F’ according to Ed Kopko, chairman and CEO of “Chief Executive” magazine, speaking to the MIRS Capitol Capsule newsletter on Sept. 16 (www.mirsnews.com – subscription required).

The Web site for the magazine claims that the publication is “the only magazine written strictly for CEOs and their peers and is the leading source of intelligence for and about CEOs.” MIRS reports that “Chief Executive” takes an annual survey of CEOs regarding the best and worst states in which to do business, and Michigan is currently ranked near the bottom at 43rd.

Though many in-state politicians profess to believe that Michigan’s workforce is an asset relative to competing states, the magazine gives the Great Lakes State only a C+ grade for “workforce quality.” Kopko attributes part of this mediocre rating to unionization, noting that Texas, the highest ranked state on the overall list, scored a B+ on the workforce quality subcomponent. Kopko tells MIRS that studies show a \$5,000 additional annual cost of hiring the same worker to do the same job in Michigan, as compared to right-to-work Texas.

A “significant overhaul” of Michigan’s political environment, taxes and regulation is the remedy recommended by those surveyed. But according to Kopko, these business leaders also “don’t view Michigan as having the leadership to do it.” ■

For additional information and an opportunity to comment on these issues, please see www.mackinac.org/9955.

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NEW AND UPDATED!

Their votes, your views.
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Engage. Join in. Get involved.

RANDOM ACTS

from Page 3

HOUSE BILL 4173

To name a road after Annie Oakley

Introduced by state Rep. Marie Donigan, D-Royal Oak

The analysis done by the House Fiscal Agency reports that the bill would “amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate those portions of Highway US-127 in Lenawee and Gratiot counties as the ‘Annie Oakley Memorial Trail.’”



Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library

On June 27, 2008, the bill was approved by the House of Representatives on a vote of 99-8.

HOUSE BILL 4599

To name a road after a term-limited legislator

Introduced by state Rep. John Proos, R-St. Joseph

The Michigan House Fiscal agency staff reports that this bill would “amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate a portion of Highway M-63 in Berrien County the ‘Harry Gast Parkway.’”

Gast is a former member of the Michigan Legislature. Contrary to the implication of the name “Memorial Highway Act,” Gast is still alive as of this writing. However, term limits forced him to retire from the Michigan Senate after 2002.

On June 27, 2008, the bill was approved by the House of Representatives on a vote of 100-7.

Check MichiganVotes.org

“State Children’s Book” Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of commemorating an official state children’s book:

SENATE REPUBLICANS (19)

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

SENATE DEMOCRATS (8)

Barcia (D)	Hunter (D)	Thomas (D)
Clarke (D)	Olshove (D)	Whitmer (D)
Gleason (D)	Prusi (D)	

Legislators who voted TO OPPOSE commemorating an official state children’s book:

SENATE REPUBLICANS (2)

Jansen (R)	Richardville (R)
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SENATE DEMOCRATS (9)

Anderson (D)	Cherry (D)	Schauer (D)
Basham (D)	Clark-Coleman (D)	Scott (D)
Brater (D)	Jacobs (D)	Switalski (D)

2007 Senate Roll Call 106 on Senate Resolution 25

HOUSE BILL 4534

Establish “Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day”

Introduced by state Rep.

Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland



The analysis of the bill prepared by the House Fiscal Agency staff finds that if enacted into law it “would designate the third Wednesday of each July as Ride your Motorcycle to Work Day.”

On June 24, 2008, the bill was approved by the House of

Representatives on a vote of 87-20.

SENATE RESOLUTION 25 Official children’s book for the state

Introduced by state Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City

This resolution commemorates “Hidden Michigan” as the official state children’s book. On May 15, 2007, the resolution was approved in the Michigan Senate on a vote of 27-11.

During this legislative session, bills have been introduced to establish the blueberry as the official state fruit (House Bill 5622); establish “Bo Schembechler Day” (House Bill 5563); establish “Children’s Day” (Senate Bill 879); declare apple cider as the official state beverage (House Bill 4704); and designate the peeper as the official state amphibian (House Bill 4703.)

According to Michiganvotes.org, past legislatures “have proposed designating the marbled salamander as the official state amphibian and the monarch butterfly as the official state insect.

Check MichiganVotes.org

“Harry Gast Parkway” Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of naming a road after a term-limited legislator:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (46)

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

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (54)

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

Legislators who voted TO OPPOSE naming a road after a term-limited legislator:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (4)

Green (R)	Hune (R)	Meltzer (R)	Rocca (R)
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HOUSE DEMOCRATS (3)

Bauer (D)	Sak (D)	Sheltrown (D)
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Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Garfield (R)	Lemmons (D)	Robertson (R)
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2008 House roll call 680 on HB 4599

Michigan does have an official state reptile, which is the painted turtle.”

HOUSE BILL 6130 To ban certain “novelty lighters”

Introduced by state Rep. Jeff Mayes, D-Bay City

The bill would allow a fine of \$500 to be imposed on retailers who sell novelty cigarette lighters. According to one of two memos prepared by the House Fiscal Agency for use by legis-



lators as they deliberated this bill, a “novelty lighter” is defined as one that is “designed to

appear to be a toy, features a flashing light, or makes musical sounds.”

On Sept. 18, 2008, the bill was approved by the House of Representatives on a vote of 88-19. ■

Check MichiganVotes.org

“Novelty Lighters” Legislators who voted TO IMPOSE \$500 FINES on stores that sell cigarette lighters that are designed to look like toys, feature flashing lights or make musical sounds:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (33)

Acciavatti (R)	Gaffney (R)	Marleau (R)	Robertson (R)
Amos (R)	Hansen (R)	Moore (R)	Rocca (R)
Ball (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Moss (R)	Shaffer (R)
Booher (R)	Horn (R)	Nitz (R)	Stakoe (R)
Calley (R)	Huizenga (R)	Nofs (R)	Ward (R)
Casperson (R)	Hune (R)	Opsommer (R)	Wenke (R)
Caswell (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Palsrok (R)	
Caul (R)	LaJoy (R)	Pavlov (R)	
Emmons (R)	Law, David (R)	Proos (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (55)

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

Legislators who voted AGAINST fines and a ban on stores that sell novelty lighters:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (19)

Agema (R)	Green (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Sheen (R)
Brandenburg (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Palmer (R)	Stahl (R)
DeRoche (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Pastor (R)	Steil (R)
Elsenheimer (R)	Meekhof (R)	Pearce (R)	Walker (R)
Garfield (R)	Meltzer (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Clack (D)	Jackson (D)	Smith, Virgil (D)
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2008 House roll call 743 on HB 6130

Check MichiganVotes.org

“Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day” Legislators who voted TO CREATE “Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day”:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (34)

Acciavatti (R)	Caswell (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Law, David (R)	Opsommer (R)	Shaffer (R)
Amos (R)	DeRoche (R)	Horn (R)	Marleau (R)	Palsrok (R)	Walker (R)
Ball (R)	Elsenheimer (R)	Huizenga (R)	Moore (R)	Pastor (R)	Ward (R)
Booher (R)	Emmons (R)	Hune (R)	Moss (R)	Pavlov (R)	Wenke (R)
Calley (R)	Gaffney (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Nitz (R)	Pearce (R)	
Casperson (R)	Hansen (R)	LaJoy (R)	Nofs (R)	Proos (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (53)

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

Legislators who voted AGAINST creating “Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day”:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (17)

Agema (R)	Garfield (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	Stakoe (R)
Brandenburg (R)	Green (R)	Meekhof (R)	Robertson (R)	Sheen (R)	Steil (R)
Caul (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Meltzer (R)	Rocca (R)	Stahl (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (3)

Bennett (D)	Scott (D)	Vagnozzi (D)
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Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Dillon (D)	Lemmons (D)	Palmer (R)
------------	-------------	------------

2008 House roll call 556 on HB 4534

Check MichiganVotes.org

“Annie Oakley Trail” Legislators who voted TO NAME US-127 after Annie Oakley:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (43)

Acciavatti (R)	Caswell (R)	Horn (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Pastor (R)	Walker (R)
Agema (R)	Caul (R)	Huizenga (R)	Moore (R)	Pavlov (R)	Ward (R)
Amos (R)	DeRoche (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Moss (R)	Pearce (R)	Wenke (R)
Ball (R)	Elsenheimer (R)	LaJoy (R)	Nitz (R)	Proos (R)	
Booher (R)	Emmons (R)	Law, David (R)	Nofs (R)	Rocca (R)	
Brandenburg (R)	Gaffney (R)	Marleau (R)	Opsommer (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	
Calley (R)	Hansen (R)	Meekhof (R)	Palmer (R)	Shaffer (R)	
Casperson (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Meltzer (R)	Palsrok (R)	Stakoe (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (56)

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

Legislators who voted AGAINST naming US-127 after Annie Oakley:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (7)

Green (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Hune (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Sheen (R)	Stahl (R)	Steil (R)
-----------	---------------	----------	-----------------	-----------	-----------	-----------

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (1)

Sheltrown (D)

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Garfield (R)	Lemmons (D)	Robertson (R)
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2008 House roll call 679 on HB 4173

MICHIGAN
CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL

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US V. THEM

from Page One

council just overturned mayoral term limits despite their being approved by 59 percent of the voters in a 1993 initiative, confirmed in a 1996 referendum.) By what principle of representative government is negating the repeatedly expressed will of the people justified?

Similarly, there's a durable popular consensus favoring a federal balanced budget amendment, and an equally persistent refusal by the political class to enact it. At the state level, "Taxpayer Bills of Rights" spending limitations enjoy broad public support, but will never pass a single legislative body.

Parties are all about power, and recent history demonstrates just how quickly a party abandons whatever principles it professes once that object is gained, instead embracing the instrumentalities of big government to keep it.

It's not just the politicians — public employees are an integral part of the problem, too. For example, in Michigan last year there was an effort by some Senate Republicans and House Democrats to outsource certain juvenile justice and adoption services to private social service agencies. Despite bipartisan recognition that it would save money and generate better outcomes for children, the measure was gutted at the 11th hour because some 800 government jobs would have become superfluous.

Locally, can anyone doubt the result if pollsters asked, "Should municipal and school employees be able to retire at age 50 with a full pension and lifetime health coverage?" Yet such benefits are

commonplace. The elected officials who grant them and their beneficiaries are all members of the same political/government class, which protects its own above all else.

The political class perpetuates its rule in many ways. One is campaign finance regulations that impose nearly impossible burdens on challengers, while incumbents use tax dollars and their offices in never-ending campaigns. Also, the government's pampered minions — public employees and their unions — have become what may be the most powerful and effective special interest, and are fully engaged in electoral politics. Their exclusive goal is defeating candidates or initiatives that might diminish their authority, resources or privileges, and their political power all but dominates elections at every level.

That particular power-center is in part the offspring of the 19th century's Progressive movement goal of replacing the bribes, kickbacks and graft of a corrupt patronage system with a professionalized, non-partisan bureaucracy. With the growth of a massive welfare state this "good government" reform metastasized into a much deeper corruption of the democrat ideal: An unelected bureaucratic nomenklatura, controlling or allied with today's political class, manipulating the system to deprive the people of any real choice. You can vote for the red squad or the blue squad, but they're all members of the same elite, which always promotes its interests ahead of yours.

Can anything be done? What's needed is a movement that, like the Progressives in their time, captures the public's imagination by defining a new dimension in U.S. politics: Not Republican vs. Democrat, conservative vs. liberal, or populist vs. capitalist, but the people vs. a political and government class that no longer represents them.

Don't look for help from the political parties. Parties are all

about power, and recent history demonstrates just how quickly a party abandons whatever principles it professes once that object is gained, instead embracing the instrumentalities of big government to keep it.

As always, the true source of reform must be the people themselves. Those who would restore representative government must raise the public's consciousness regarding this fundamental but little understood divide: The people vs. the political/government class.

The rare candidate who sincerely opposes the status quo, or ballot initiative that challenges it, enjoys the tremendous advantage of an enthusiastic public. But they must also expect concerted counter-attacks from the arrayed forces of the system itself, rippling with political muscles.

These forces will only be overcome when the public explicitly understands where the real divide lies, and so sees through the inevitable demonization, lies and outright thuggery funded by the political establishment's nearly bottomless resources, much of which come directly or indirectly from the state itself.

We may be approaching a tipping point where this political class and establishment amass such power and resources that efforts to dislodge them become futile, and Americans are no longer sovereigns, but subjects. While we still are able, defenders of liberty must become modern-day Paul Reveres, raising the alarm by identifying freedom's true and most and potent enemies: Those who run and operate our unrepresentative governments. ■

Jack McHugh is senior legislative analyst at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. For additional information and an opportunity to comment on this issue, please see www.mackinac.org/9955.

Dear Michigan Capitol Confidential

Here is a sample of what Michigan Capitol Confidential readers are saying.

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

MICAPCON@MACKINAC.ORG

NORTHVILLE, MI

Please keep my name on your mailing list for Michigan Capital Confidential. I read every word. It is disgusting to learn how useless and self-serving many of our representatives are. Thanks.

GLADWIN, MI

This idiotic notion by Rep. Constan on skiing helmets is a piece of work! (See "Just a Bill," September/October 2008 Michigan Capitol Confidential.) Must have a lot of time on his hands, is trying desperately to show he's doing something this term, or maybe he needs lessons in skiing after perhaps injuring his head on the slopes.

I don't need any laws telling me what apparel I wear skiing. Good God, when will people see the lunacy in these ideas and get the government free of these morons?

(I've skied since age 4- starting out @ Mt. Hood in Oregon and never suffered any injuries. This is due to constantly renewing safety precautions and observing them. They're out there and cost little.)

ZEELAND, MI

I have received several issues of Capitol Confidential, and boy am I glad you're there to let us know what's going on. These thieves — I mean politicians — have been able to hide and "get away with murder" for toooooo long. Way to expose them all!!!

Here are some others who would love to hear from you, too.

[Editor's note: The reader submitted 14 names and addresses to be added to the Michigan Capitol Confidential subscriber list.]

MILFORD, MI

I have just read the May/June issue of the Michigan Capitol Confidential. I learned so much. I must say I am upset after reading about the Wage and Fairness Bill. I am stunned. I don't even know what these people are thinking. Anyway, I would like to receive this newspaper in the future. I read my sister's copy.

RIGHT-TO-WORK

from Page One

were introduced after the Service Employees International Union opposed a private equity fund's attempt to purchase 28 Michigan nursing homes.

Rep. Meekof's right-to-work tie-bar was defeated on a vote of 69-35. MIRS noted afterward that "Republicans won a chance to vote on a right to work amendment today, but watched 14 of their colleagues vote against the measure and three others not vote one way or the other." With 56 votes needed for a majority in the 110-member chamber, 14 Republicans joined 55 Democrats in opposition. All 35 votes in favor of the right-to-work tie-bar came from Republicans.

MIRS noted afterward that "Republicans won a chance to vote on a right to work amendment today, but watched 14 of their colleagues vote against the measure..."

One of the 14 Republican opposition votes, Rep. Brian Palmer, R-Bruce Twp., noted later in the House Journal that he had made a mistake:

"I inadvertently cast a vote opposing this amendment. I am a strong supporter of right-to-work, and giving workers choice, and believe that it is one of the cornerstones for an economic turnaround in Michigan. In fact, I am a co-sponsor of HB 4454, which is the subject of this amendment. I give my sincere apology to the maker of this amendment, and for any inconvenience this may have caused."

A 2007 Mackinac Center for Public Policy report on the potential economic impact of a right-to-work law supports the idea that a right-to-work law

would benefit the state. Authored by Paul Kersey, the Center's director of labor policy, the report revealed a strong correlation between right-to-work protections and several measures of prosperity. It examines the five-year period between 2001 and 2006 and finds that the average increase in gross state product for right-to-work states was 18.1 percent. The GSP growth over the same years for non-right-to-work states was 13.6 percent, and for Michigan just 3.4 percent.

Likewise, employment growth for the average right-to-work state during the period was 6.4 percent, compared to just 2.9 percent for non-right-to-work states and an employment *decline* of 4.8 percent for Michigan.

Along with this contracting employment, the report also observes that Michigan's wages have been declining relative to the right-to-work states. The per-capita disposable personal income of five right-to-work states — Florida, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas — passed that of Michigan during the 2001 through 2006 period. If this pace of decline relative to the right-to-work states continues, Kersey projects that by 2010 the average Michigan resident could also have less disposable income than their fellow Americans in Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee — all right-to-work states.

Kersey's report is an update on a study done for the Center in 2002 by Dr. William T. Wilson. Wilson examined the period between 1970 and 2000 and found similar trends.

Despite the rejection of a right-to-work law in the Michigan House, public opinion surveys continue to show support for the policy change. A 2002 survey of Michigan voters found a 62 to 22 percent advantage in favor of implementing a state-wide right-to-work law. More recently, and tellingly, a 2004 nationwide survey of 703 self-identified union members done

by Zogby International revealed that 63 percent believed it was "unfair for a worker to lose their job if he or she refuses to pay dues to, or support, a union."

The MichiganVotes.org vote tally for Rep. Meekof's right-to-work amendment is below. Contact information for the representatives is on page 11. ■

For additional information and an opportunity to comment on this issue, please see www.mackinac.org/9955.

Check MichiganVotes.org

"Right to Work": Legislators who voted IN FAVOR of making Michigan into a right-to-work state:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (35)

Agema (R)	Elsheimer (R)	Huizenga (R)	Moss (R)	Pearce (R)	Stakoe (R)
Amos (R)	Emmons (R)	Hune (R)	Nitz (R)	Proos (R)	Steil (R)
Booher (R)	Garfield (R)	Jones, Rick (R)	Opsommer (R)	Robertson (R)	Walker (R)
Brandenburg (R)	Green (R)	Knollenberg (R)	Palsrok (R)	Schuitmaker (R)	Ward (R)
Calley (R)	Hildenbrand (R)	Meekhof (R)	Pastor (R)	Sheen (R)	Wenke (R)
DeRoche (R)	Hoogendyk (R)	Moolenaar (R)	Pavlov (R)	Stahl (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (NONE)

Legislators who voted TO OPPOSE a right-to-work amendment:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS (14)

Ball (R)	Caul (R)	Horn (R)	Meltzer (R)	Rocca (R)
Casperson (R)	Gaffney (R)	LaJoy (R)	Moore (R)	Shaffer (R)
Caswell (R)	Hansen (R)	Marleau (R)	Palmer (R)	

HOUSE DEMOCRATS (55)

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

Legislators who DID NOT VOTE:

Acciavatti (R)	Clack (D)	Cushingberry (D)	Gillard (D)	Law, David (R)	Nofs (R)
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2008 House roll call 729 on HB 6256

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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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.

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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. ■

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—
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A sampling of proposed
state laws, as described on
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SENATE BILL 1503
(Give government subsidies to
“artificial intelligence” businesses)

*Introduced by state Sen. Valde Garcia,
R-Howell*

Authorize \$18 million worth of government “21st Century Jobs Fund” subsidies for “creative artificial intelligence excellence sectors,” defined as private businesses or other entities engaged in developing “advanced artificial neural network technology that is capable of autonomously generating new and potentially valuable concepts or strategies.”

HOUSE BILL 6551
(Authorize state gas purchase
stipend for all residents)

*Introduced by state Rep. Kenneth Horn,
R-Frankenmuth*

Authorize a refundable income tax credit worth \$150 for a single filer (\$300 for a joint filer) for the purchase of gasoline. Essentially, the bill authorizes a state stipend to residents who buy gasoline.

HOUSE BILL 6191
(Authorize Wayne County
“homeless trust fund” tax)

*Introduced by state Rep. Robert Jones,
D-Kalamazoo*

Authorize the levy by Wayne County of 25 cents per \$500 in value “deed tax” on property transfers to pay for a “homeless trust fund.”

HOUSE BILL 5966
(Increase juvenile justice
employee pension benefits)

*Introduced by state Rep. Paul Opsommer,
R-Dewitt*

Include Department of Human Services juvenile justice employees in the same Department of Corrections “covered” positions category as prison guards, which makes them eligible for a supplemental pension at age 51 with 25 years on the job or at age 56 with 10 years. At age 62, these employees begin to receive a straight life pension like those of other state employees. See also the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget, which transfers some justice services to private social service agencies, with some state juvenile justice employees laid off.

SENATE BILL 1138
(Require headlights on all the time)

*Introduced by state Sen. Michael Prusi,
D-Ishpeming*

Would require the use of vehicle headlights at all times when driving.

HOUSE BILL 6335
(Transfer transportation revenue
to other spending)

*Introduced by state Rep. Lee Gonzales,
D-Flint*

Authorize the transfer of \$13 million of drivers’ license fee money, which under current law must be used for economic development-related transportation

infrastructure projects, to instead be used for other non-transportation state spending.

SENATE BILL 892
(Mandate driver’s ed recycling message)

*Introduced by state Sen. Cameron Brown,
R-Fawn River Twp.*

Mandate that driver’s education courses include state-approved material expressing a belief in “the importance of recycling” and containing information on “opportunities to support statewide recycling efforts,” as well as an anti-litter message.

SENATE BILL 1437
(Regulate flag pole construction)

*Introduced by state Sen. Gilda Jacobs,
D-Huntington Woods*

Extend state regulations on public playground equipment to include flagpoles, and require public flagpoles to be made of aluminum or a material that is considered by the industry to be high strength and lightweight material. The bill is introduced following the recent death of a child when a flag pole fell on her in a wind storm.

HOUSE BILL 6524
(Grant Detroit Auto Show subsidy)

*Introduced by state Rep. Barbara Farrah,
D-Southgate*

Grants a subsidy in the form of a \$200,000 Michigan Business Tax credit to the organizers of the Detroit Auto Show.