

Year-End Legislation

This Bulletin contains the final legislation that was passed into law during the 2005-2006 legislative session. At the end of the two-year session, all pending legislation that did not get signed into law “dies.”

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW & GOVERNOR'S VETOES

2006 Public Acts

PA 351 – YOUTH CORRECTION

Provides for the reuse of the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility if it no longer houses prisoners under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections.

Signed 9/15/06; immediate effect. (HB 5800)

PA 352 – ADOPTION INHERITANCE RIGHTS

Removes conflicts between the Estates and Protected Individuals Code and the Adoption Code.

Signed 9/15/06; immediate effect. (HB 5602)

PA 353 – GRANDPARENT VISITATION

Guarantees that an adoption by a stepparent would not terminate the right of a parent of a deceased parent of the child to bring an action for grandparenting time.

Signed 9/15/06; immediate effect. (SB 420)

PA 372 – EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Provides for a Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Signed 9/22/06; immediate effect. (SB 453)

PA 373 – MINIMUM WAGE EXEMPTIONS

Maintains the status quo with regard to federal minimum wage and overtime exemptions when the state minimum wage increases.

Signed 9/22/06; immediate effect. (SB 6213)

PA 375 – YOUTH MINIMUM WAGE

Increases student/youth minimum wage; sets minimum wage for college students at 85 percent of minimum.

Signed 9/22/06; immediate effect. (SB 1364)

PA 398 – NURSE LICENSE SUNSET

Extends the sunset for the temporary licensure of certain registered nurses.

Signed 9/26/06; immediate effect. (HB 6253)

PA 399 – SENIOR ANNUITY

Provides for senior protection in annuity transactions.

Signed 9/29/06; immediate effect. (SB 880)

PA 412 & 413 – WELLNESS COVERAGE REBATE

The bills would allow health insurers to offer incentives in the form of rebates, lower premiums, or reduced copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles for participation in programs designed to improve the insured's health and wellness.

Signed 9/29/06; effective 1/1/07. (SB 848 & 849)

PA 437 – REVENUE SHARING

Distributes revenue sharing payments to cities and villages for FY 2006-2007.

Signed 10/3/06; immediate effect. (SB 1375)

Michigan League for Human Services

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A UNITED WAY AGENCY

PA 440 – RENAISSANCE ZONES

Modifies requirements for renaissance zones.

Signed 10/3/06; immediate effect. (HB 5942)

PA 441 – LONG-TERM CARE

Makes Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan subject to the long-term care health care code.

Signed 10/18/06; immediate effect. (HB 5348)

PA 442 – LONG-TERM CARE

Provides for general amendments to long-term care insurance.

Signed 10/18/06; immediate effect. (HB 5349)

PA 444 – NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Expands scholarships to nurses in a master's degree program.

Signed 11/27/06; immediate effect. (SB 1371)

PA 450 – MISSING SENIOR CITIZENS

Requires law enforcement agencies to enter information into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and the National Crime Information Center when a person who was believed to be unable to return to his or her residence without assistance was reported missing.

Signed 12/14/06; immediate effect. (SB 701)

PA 459 – HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY FUND

Creates an infrastructure development fund for health care information technology.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (HB 6039)

PA 462 – MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

Modifies Medicare supplement policy provisions.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (HB 6359)

PA 468 – WORK FIRST REQUIREMENTS

Revises financial assistance or services for Family Independence Assistance eligibility and Work First exemptions.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (HB 6580)

PA 469 – EDUCATION PROGRAM

Revises participation in education programs to meet Work First requirements.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (HB 6587)

PA 470 – WORK FIRST REQUIREMENTS

Changes the eligibility date on sanctions for welfare recipients.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (SB 1500)

PA 471 – WORK FIRST REQUIREMENTS

Revises Work First requirements.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (SB 1501)

PA 472 – LIFETIME LEARNING EXPENSES

Provides a Single Business Tax (SBT) credit for lifetime learning expenses.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (SB 387)

PA 473 – HOSPITAL DEFINITION

Expands the definition of "hospitals and community hospitals and related facilities" to include a long-term care facility, an assisted living facility, a home for the aged, a senior citizen housing facility, and a health and wellness facility.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (SB 1357)

PA 476 – RENAISSANCE ZONES

Increases the number of renaissance zones in the state.

Signed 12/20/06; immediate effect. (SB 1148)

PA 478 & 479 – MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Creates the new Michigan Merit Award Scholarship program.

Signed 12/21/06; immediate effect. (HB 6302 & SB 1335)

PA 481 – MEDICAL RECORD PROTECTION

Implements a provision for the protection, retention, and maintenance of medical records.

Signed 12/19/06; immediate effect. (SB 465)

PA 482 – HEALTH INFORMATION PROTECTION

Exempts protected health information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Signed 12/19/06; immediate effect. (SB 468)

PA 484 – MEGA GRANTS

Authorizes the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) to provide Single Business Tax credits to a business that meets certain criteria.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (HB 6118)

PA 485 – CHILD SUPPORT/MILITARY

Provides for modification of child support assessment for certain military personnel.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 1128)

PA 491 – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Creates the "Michigan Works One-Stop Service Center System Act" to establish a system to deliver workforce development programs and services tailored to local needs.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 1288)

PA 495 – INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Provides for certain government employees having rights under the Patient's Right to Independent Review Act.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 1426)

PA 507 – CHILD ABUSE

Increases allowable probation time for misdemeanor child abuse.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 1110)

PA 513 – DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Creates the Individual or Family Development Account Program Act.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 640)

PA 514 – DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Allows income tax credits and deductions for contributions to individual or family development accounts.

Signed 12/25/06; immediate effect. (HB 5022)

PA 515 – FOOD SURPLUS FOR SCHOOLS

Clarifies the authority of school districts to enter into agreements to distribute federal agricultural surplus products.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 1398)

PA 534 – SCHOOL AID ACT INSTRUCTION HOURS

Revises the requirement for instructional hours in the School Code to conform to the School Aid Act.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (SB 95)

PA 537 – STUDENT HEALTH CARE

Requires medical insurance coverage to continue for dependent students who leave college for medical reasons.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (HB 5815)

PA 538 – STUDENT HEALTH CARE

Requires Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage to continue for dependent students who leave college for medical reasons.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (HB 5816)

PA 542 – PATIENT REVIEW RIGHT

Clarifies the definition of *health carrier* in the Patient's Right to Independent Review Act.

Signed 12/28/06; immediate effect. (HB 6032)

PA 573 & 574 – CHARITY EMBEZZLEMENT

Increases penalties and enacts sentencing guidelines for the crime of embezzlement from a charitable organization.

Signed 12/30/06; effective 3/30/07. (SB 454 & 455)

PA 576 – COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES

Amends the Social Welfare Act to extend for five years a provision that limits a county's maintenance of effort rate for Medicaid-funded long-term care services to the rate in effect in 1984.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (SB 649)

PA 580 – BACKGROUND CHECKS

Requires that criminal history checks and criminal record checks for child care providers be performed only once if the person remains licensed continuously and is required to follow School Code procedures if the provider is operating in a school.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (HB 6174)

PA 583 – CHILD ABUSE FOLLOW-UP

Clarifies the procedure for following up on a report of child abuse or neglect involving a licensed facility or home.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (SB 1410)

PA 586 – MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Provides for a medical director of mental health services.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (HB 5927)

PA 591 – RETIRED DENTIST LICENSE

Provides for special volunteer license for retired dentists.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (HB 6392)

PA 593 – HEALTH INFORMATION SHARING

Requires health insurers and similar entities to provide the Department of Community Health with information each month about whether a covered individual is also a recipient of Medicaid assistance.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (HB 6603)

PA 604 – MENTAL HEALTH REPORTING

Clarifies the reporting procedure for the State Recipient Rights Director.

Signed 12/31/06; immediate effect. (HB 5923)

PA 605 – ABSENTEE BALLOT RESTRICTIONS

Allows members of the armed services and overseas voters to register to vote by using the federal postcard application.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (HB 4481)

PA 612 – NONPROFIT HOUSING PROPERTY CREDIT

Provides a two-year tax exemption for properties purchased and improved by nonprofit housing development associations.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 65)

PA 615 – CHILD SUPPORT

Establishes department responsibilities for child support collection.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 891)

PA 618 – CHILD PROTECTION

Extends the time period for the Department of Human Services to submit reports regarding child protection services.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 1254)

PA 619 – TEACHER CERTIFICATES

Revises the procedure for nullifying teacher certificates.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 1327)

PA 620 – DRUG COURTS

Allows defendants to attend drug treatment courts in other jurisdictions.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 1428)

PA 621 – CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Allows disclosure of certain child protective services information.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 1512)

PA 623 – HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Makes technical changes to the requirements for high school graduation.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 1427)

PA 624 – STATE EDUCATION TAX

Requires townships for which the Department of Treasury collects the State Education Tax in the summer of 2006 to collect the tax themselves beginning in the summer of 2007.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 1101)

PA 630 – CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION

Revises the circumstances under which an investigation may commence for child abuse or neglect.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (HB 4420)

PA 633 – PERSONAL PROPERTY DEFINITIONS

Amends the General Property Tax Act, defining personal property for the purpose of taxation.

Signed 1/3/07; immediate effect. (SB 803)

PA 634 – LONG-TERM CARE CHOICES

Requires the Department of Community Health to designate and maintain locally- and regionally-based single points of entry for long-term care to serve as visible and effective access points for individuals who seek long-term care and to promote consumer choice and quality in long-term care option.

Signed 12/30/06; immediate effect. (HB 5389)

PA 643 – MULTISTATE LICENSURE PRIVILEGE

Recognizes the multistate licensure privilege authorized pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Signed 1/4/07; immediate effect. (HB 5750)

PA 653 – MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES

Creates the Minority Health Disparities Research and Education Act.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 4455)

PA 654 – TEACHER CRIMES

Enacts sentencing guidelines for the crime of a school employee failing to report the conviction of a "listed offense" as defined in the Sex Offenders Registration Act.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 4931)

PA 657 – FILM TAX INCENTIVES

Provides sales tax exemption for motion picture production companies.

Signed 1/4/07; immediate effect. (HB 5204)

PA 659 – DDA OBLIGATIONS

Modifies eligible obligations under Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs).

Signed 1/8/07; effective 3/30/07. (HB 5901)

PA 660 – NEIGHBORHOOD ZONES

Provides an exception to the timeline for filing an application for a neighborhood enterprise zone.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 5947)

PA 661 – NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE ZONES

Creates homestead facilities in neighborhood enterprise zones and modifies the duration of tax abatement.

Signed 1/8/07; effective 3/30/07. (HB 4539)

PA 663 – DOMESTIC ASSAULT CRIMES

Prohibits deferral of sentencing for certain domestic assault crimes.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 5968)

PA 665 & 666 – HOSPITAL MATERIALS

Revises sales and use tax exemptions for materials affixed to a nonprofit hospital.

Signed 12/28/06; effective for taxes levied after 6/30/99. (HB 6076 & 6077)

PA 672 – DRUG PHARMACEUTICALS

Allows pharmacies to accept facsimile and electronic prescriptions with electronic signatures.

Signed 1/8/07; effective 3/30/07. (HB 6323)

PA 674 – LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Requires the Department of Community Health, in conjunction with the Office of Financial and Insurance Services and the Department of Human Services, to establish a long-term care partnership program in Michigan to provide for the financing of long-term care through a combination of private insurance and Medicaid.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 6478)

PA 680 – TEACHING CERTIFICATES

Revises the provisions concerning background checks and revocation of teaching certificates.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 6173)

PA 681 – PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Provides property tax exemption for nonprofit groups that provide services to persons with disabilities.

Signed 1/8/07; immediate effect. (HB 6209)

2006 Vetoes

SB 613 – CHILD CARE CRIME

Enacts sentencing guidelines for crime of child care center or day care center employee failing to self-report certain felony charges.

Vetoed by the Governor 1/5/07; does not take effect because tie-barred bill was not enacted into law. (Brown)

SB 1289 – COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Repeals a provision of the Mental Health Code that provides for the membership of the Detroit-Wayne County community mental health services program board.

Vetoed by the Governor 1/4/07. (Hammerstrom)

SB 1412 – CHILD PROTECTION

Amends the Child Protection Law to permit the Department of Human Services to report certain information on perpetrators of child abuse or neglect contained in the central registry to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Vetoed by the Governor 1/4/07. (Sanborn)

HB 5301-5309 – U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

A package of bills that specify that in order for a person to benefit from the following programs, they must be a U.S. citizen or legal alien with a permanent residency status:

HB 5301 – Michigan Nursing Scholarship Program

HB 5302 – Part-Time Independent Student Grant Program

HB 5303 – State Competitive Scholarships

HB 5304 – Work-Study Programs

HB 5305 – Work-Study Programs

HB 5306 – Michigan Educational Opportunity Grant Program

HB 5307 – Tuition grants by independent colleges

HB 5308 – Tuition differential grants

HB 5309 – Michigan Merit Award Scholarships

Vetoed by the Governor 1/3/07. (Vander Veen, et. al.)

HB 6661 – ADOPTION SUBSIDIES

Makes a number of amendments to sections of the Social Welfare Act that deal with adoption subsidies for children with special needs.

Vetoed by the Governor 1/4/07. (Hummel)

HB 6694 – PREFUNDED HEALTH CARE

Provides for local government bonds for prefunded health care.

Vetoed by the Governor 1/10/07. (Hildenbrand)

NOTE: Copies of legislative bills are available from the State of Michigan website: www.legislature.mi.gov

APPOINTMENTS

COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

The Commission advises the Office of Services to the Aging, the Governor, and the Legislature on matters related to policies and programs for older and aging persons in Michigan. The bipartisan commission also promotes senior citizen interests within state government and communities and administers programs of the federal Older Americans Act and state-funded programs.

Appointed for terms expiring 7/28/09 were **Donald L. Newport**, Greenbush, to represent Independents; and **Anthony P. Pawelski**, Pinconning, to represent Democrats. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

MICHIGAN BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY

The Board is responsible for overseeing the licensure and regulation of audiologists in the state, including establishing specific requirements for licensure.

Diane C. Zuckschwerdt, Corunna, was appointed to represent audiologists for a term expiring 6/30/10. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

The Commission serves approximately 4,500 blind persons each year through its programs: Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Independent Living Services, DeafBlind Services, Youth Services, the Business Enterprise Program, and the Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center. The commission serves the state's estimated 50,000 persons who are blind.

Velma P. Allen, Flint, was appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring 9/30/08. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Commission investigates alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, height, weight, arrest record, or physical or mental disabilities. The bipartisan commission also works to secure the equal protection of such civil rights without discrimination.

J. Michael Zelle, Grand Blanc, was appointed to represent Independents for a term expiring 12/31/09. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Commission is responsible for monitoring indicators of controlled substance abuse and diversion, and recommending a plan of action for overcoming such abuse and diversion.

Claire E. Saadeh, Rp.H., Dewitt, was appointed to represent pharmacologists for a term expiring 8/30/07. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

BOARD OF COUNSELING

The Board is responsible for the licensure and examination of professional counselors of the state prior to their entry into the practice of counseling. The board also has the authority to take disciplinary action against licensees who have adversely affected the public's health, safety and welfare.

Steven D. Hampton, Traverse City, was appointed to represent statutorily regulated mental health professionals for a term expiring 6/30/10. Appointed to represent the general public were **Julian E. Pate**, Farmington Hills, for a term expiring 6/30/09; and **Thomas J. Wuori**, Kalamazoo, for a term expiring 6/30/10. These appointments stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

MICHIGAN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COUNCIL

The Council serves as an advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Its primary objective is the complete inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society.

Cynthia G. Farrell, Owosso, was appointed to represent the Michigan Department of Human Services for a term expiring 9/30/09. The appointment is not subject to disapproval by the Michigan Senate.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION (ECIC)

The ECIC is charged with establishing standards and guidelines for early childhood development activities to be implemented throughout the state in partnership with local intermediate school districts.

Betsy B. Boggs, Ada, was appointed to the ECIC Executive Committee to represent parents for a term expiring 7/22/10 and to the ECIC Board for a term expiring at the pleasure of the Governor. **Carolyn Clark**, West Bloomfield, was appointed to the ECIC Executive Committee for a term expiring 7/22/10. The appointments are not subject to disapproval by the Michigan Senate.

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Commission aids management and labor in reaching amicable settlements of labor disputes by providing labor mediation services to employers and labor organizations in private industry and in the public sector.

Christine A. Dardarian, Bloomfield Hills, was appointed to represent Democrats for a term expiring 6/30/09. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

The Board is responsible for the promulgation of rules to set standards of acceptable practices for marriage and family therapy and to assess penalties for when those standards are not met.

Jeffrey J. Angera, Mount Pleasant, was appointed to represent licensed marriage and family therapists for a term expiring 6/30/10.

BOARD OF PHARMACY

The Board is responsible for the licensure and examination of pharmacists; licensure of pharmacies, manufacturers and wholesale distributors; and the regulation of drugs manufactured, distributed, prescribed, dispensed and administered in the state.

Devin R. Senneker, Comstock Park, was appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring 6/30/10. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

The Commission was created within the Michigan Department of Community Health to facilitate and promote the design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of an interoperable health care information infrastructure in Michigan.

Appointed for terms expiring 8/3/07 were **Dr. Gregory Forzley**, Grand Rapids, to represent doctors of medicine; **Ganesh Reddy**, Okemos, to represent consumers; and **Dr. Thomas Stevenson**, Alto, to represent doctors of osteopathic medicine and surgery. Appointed for terms expiring 8/3/08 were **Robert McDonough**, Three Rivers, to represent pharmaceutical manufacturers; **Janet Olszewski**, Williamston, Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health; and **Teri Takai**, Troy, Director of the Michigan Department of Information Technology. Appointed for terms expiring 8/3/09 were **Toshiki Masaki**, Canton, to represent purchasers and employers; **Dr. Mark Notman**, East Lansing, to represent schools of medicine in Michigan; and **Jeanne Strickland**, Brighton, to represent hospitals. Appointed for terms expiring 8/3/10 were **Robin Cole**, Detroit, to represent health plans and other third-party payers; **Joseph Hohner**, Canton, to represent

nonprofit health care corporations; **Robert Paul**, Novi, to represent members of the health information technology field; and **Larry Wagenknecht**, Haslett, to represent pharmacists. The appointments are not subject to disapproval by the Michigan Senate.

COUNCIL FOR LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Council is an ongoing strategic advising body that encourages and stimulates innovative public and private responses to workforce challenges. Members work to develop policies and help implement programs that shape a flexible 21st century workforce that meets the needs of Michigan's businesses, allowing them to successfully compete in the global marketplace today and in the future.

Appointed to represent businesses were **Lizabeth A. Ardisana**, Orchard Lake, and **Marjorie A. Sorge**, Livonia, both for terms expiring 4/30/09. **Patrick "Shorty" Gleason**, Davison, was appointed to represent labor organizations for a term expiring 4/30/10. Appointed to represent individuals and organizations that have experience and expertise in the delivery of workforce investment activities were **Timothy J. Nelson**, Traverse City, for a term expiring 4/30/10; and **Daniel J. Phelan**, Jackson, for a term expiring 4/30/07. The appointments are not subject to disapproval by the Michigan Senate.

REHABILITATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Council reviews, analyzes, and advises Michigan Rehabilitation Services regarding all rehabilitation programs and policies administered in Michigan under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Appointed to the Council were: **Norma T. Bauer**, Lansing, to represent the Statewide Independent Living Council for a term expiring 9/14/07; **Keith L. Bennett**, Plymouth, to represent parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves for a term expiring 9/14/07; **Eleanor L. Chang**, Ann Arbor, to represent disability advocacy groups that represent individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental disabilities for a term expiring 9/14/08; **Adolph W. Cwik**, East Jordan, to represent vocational rehabilitation counselors with knowledge of and experience with vocational rehabilitation programs for a term expiring 9/14/09; **Jacqueline S. Day**, Lansing, to represent disability advocacy groups and individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities for a term expiring 9/14/08; **Eddie Mae Dixon**, Clinton Township, to represent current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services for a term expiring 9/14/08; **Beth Childress**, Grand Haven, to represent community rehabilitation program service providers for a term expiring 9/14/07; **Fanchon P. Halacka**, Bloomfield Hills, to represent parents, family members, guardians,

advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves for a term expiring 9/14/07; **Debra E. Hilvers**, Belleville, to represent parent training and information centers for a term expiring 9/14/09; **Marwan M. Kayyali**, Byron Center, to represent business, industry, and labor for a term expiring 9/14/09; **Nancy A. Melke**, Westland, to represent current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services for a term expiring 9/14/08; **Sharon A. Rivera**, Canton, to represent business, industry, and labor, and the State Workforce Investment Board for a term expiring 9/14/08; **Michael E. Tanner**, Flint, to represent business, industry, and labor for a term expiring 9/14/09; **Jacqueline R. Thomas**, Kentwood, to represent disability advocacy groups that represent individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental disabilities for a term expiring 9/14/08; **Deborah L. Warfield**, Kalamazoo, to represent business, industry, and labor, and current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services for a term expiring 9/14/07; and **Richard J. Weir**, Ann Arbor, and **Luke O. Zelle**, Grand Blanc, both representing parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves for terms

expiring 9/14/09. The appointments are not subject to disapproval by the Michigan Senate.

COMMISSION ON SPANISH SPEAKING AFFAIRS

The Commission was created to develop policies and plans to serve the needs of Michigan's Spanish-speaking residents. It consists of 15 members from around the state who are of Hispanic descent and are Spanish-speaking.

Appointed to represent the general public were **Michael L. Espinoza**, Saginaw, for a term expiring 12/10/07; and **Frederick Feliciano**, Dearborn, for a term expiring 12/10/08. The appointments stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF MAGISTRATES

The Board functions within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth and is responsible for conducting hearings in disputes that arise under the Workers' Disability Compensation Act of 1969 and hearing cases related to workers' compensation claims.

Lee A. Decker, Brighton, was appointed for term expiring 1/26/07, and **Melody A. Paige**, Fenton, was appointed for a term expiring 1/26/09. The appointments stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

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How a Bill becomes Law in Michigan

1. Introduction/First and Second Readings

A bill is introduced by a legislator in either the House or the Senate. The legislator who introduces the bill is its sponsor. A bill receives first reading in the House and first and second readings (brief reading of title of the bill) in the Senate. The bill is then referred to the proper standing committee by the House Speaker or the Senate Majority Leader.

2. Referral to Committee

All bills are referred to a standing committee, such as the Family and Children Services Committee in the House, or Families and Human Services Committee in the Senate. All bills involving the allocation of money must go to an Appropriations Committee in the Senate or House. When a bill is in committee, general public reaction is received and public hearings may be held. This is usually the period when most changes occur.

Committee Actions – The Committee may take one or more courses of action:

- a. report the bill out with recommendation for approval with or without amendments;
- b. draft a substitute bill;
- c. report the bill out with or without recommendations;
- d. recommend the bill to another committee;
- e. table the bill; or
- f. postpone indefinitely.

Note: The committee may be discharged from consideration of a bill by a majority vote of the House or a majority of those Senators elected and serving where the bill is being considered.

3. Referral to the Full House

A bill or substitute that is favorably reported out of committee is returned to the full House or Senate and is placed on the General Orders Calendar for consideration in the Senate and second reading in the House. (A bill may also be made a special order of business on General Orders or third reading on a specified date. No bill can be passed or become law until it has been printed and in each house for at least five days.) At this step, the Senate is convened as a committee of the whole, and unlimited debate may be conducted without a roll call vote. The House and the Senate Committee of the Whole have the same options as the standing committee (see

above). After both houses have completed their deliberations, the bill advances to the third reading.

Third Reading and Vote – A bill at third reading is read in its entirety unless the House or Senate votes to consider the bill as having been read a third time. At this step, the bill is again subject to debate and amendments, and a majority of the House and majority of those elected and serving in the Senate must concur by a roll call vote to pass the bill onto the next step. Here a bill may be:

- a. passed by a majority;
- b. defeated;
- c. returned to committee;
- d. rescheduled as a special order of business and third reading for a later date;
- e. tabled; or
- f. postponed indefinitely.

Bills passed or defeated may be reconsidered if a legislator makes such a motion within two days in the Senate or within the next day in the House.

4. Repeat Procedure

A bill passed by one house goes to the other where it follows a procedure similar to the one already described. If the bill is passed by both houses in identical form, it is ordered “enrolled” and goes to the Governor for signature. Should the bill be amended and the house of origin not concur with the changes, the differences are resolved by a Conference Committee of legislators from both houses. It considers only amendments not agreed upon. If both houses concur in the Conference Committee Report, the bill is “enrolled,” reprinted, and sent to the Governor for signature.

5. Actions of the Governor

The Governor has 14 days after receiving the bill to take action. (S)he may:

- a. sign the bill, after which it becomes law in 90 days (the bill becomes law at the time it is signed if both houses have given it immediate effect);
- b. veto the bill (the veto may be overridden by two-thirds vote of both houses); or
- c. take no action, in which case the bill becomes law in 14 days. For appropriations bills, the Governor has the power to veto specific line items. (Because of the many actions open to the Governor, it is essential that the Governor know the opinion of the populace regarding specific legislation.