MLHS Legislative Bulletin

MAY 2009

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW & RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Status of bills updated through April 30, 2009.

Public Acts

PA 3 – SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Provides multi-department supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Signed 3/31/09; immediate effect. (HB 4582)

PA 7 – SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Provides multi-department supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Signed 4/6/09; immediate effect. (HB 4258)

PA 15 – GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

Revises the Subsidized Guardianship Assistance Act to conform to certain federal requirements in order to allow the program to qualify for federal matching funds; renames the act the "Guardianship Assistance Act."

Signed 4/9/09; immediate effect. (SB 227)

PA 16 – NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE ZONES

Authorizes an exception to the time limit for filing a tax exemption application for housing units in a particular neighborhood enterprise zone.

Signed 4/9/09; immediate effect. (HB 4045)

PA 17 – ADOPTION SUBSIDY

Revises eligibility and payments provisions related to adoption support subsidies and adoption medical subsidies to bring them in line with federal requirements.

Signed 4/9/09; immediate effect. (HB 4159)

PA 18-20 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Revises details of the state unemployment insurance law to make Michigan eligible for extended benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (commonly referred to as the federal stimulus package).

Signed 4/13/09; immediate effect. (SB 399-401)

Resolutions Adopted

SCR 11 – PART-TIME LEGISLATURE/TERM LIMITS

Approves the salary determinations of the State Officers Compensation Commission to put in place a 10 percent reduction in the salaries of the next legislature.

Senate adopted as amended 3/26/09; House adopted 3/31/09; House concurrence received 4/1/09. (Kahn)

SR 44 – HEARING AID CREDIT

Urges the U.S. Congress to enact the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act which would create an income tax credit for the purchase of a qualified hearing aid.

Adopted 4/30/09. (Hunter)

SR 45 – MEDICARE

Urges the U.S. Congress to pass and the President to sign legislation that will provide flexibility in providing care for Medicare and Medicaid dual eligibles and share Medicare savings.

Adopted 4/30/09. (Kahn)

HR 71 – AUTISM RESEARCH

Urges the U.S. Congress to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of autism.

Adopted 4/28/09. (Switalski)

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BILLS PENDING

Status of bills updated through April 30, 2009.

Adoption

HB 4006 – BIRTH RECORDS

Allows the issuance of certified copy of original certificate of birth to certain adopted individuals.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Families & Children's Services; reassigned to Health Policy 2/3/09. (Liss)

HB 4131 – SECOND PARENT ADOPTIONS

Allows two unmarried persons to adopt a child.

Introduced 2/4/09; to Judiciary; reported with recommendation with substitute and referred to second reading 4/22/09. (Smith)

HB 4470 – ADOPTION LEAVE

Mandates that an employer that provides leave with pay to an employee following the birth of the employee's child must grant paid leave to employees when a child age five or younger is adopted by an employee.

House passed substitute 4/28/09; to Senate Commerce & Tourism 4/29/09. (Neumann) (Similar to HB 4312 – Leland.)

Children & Families

SB 99-107 – CHILD SUPPORT

The following bills make various changes related to child support:

SB 99 – Makes a number of revisions to procedures and protocols of Friend of the Court offices in the administration and oversight of court orders related to child custody disputes.

SB 100 – Modifies enforcement by the Friend of the Court of parenting time duties.

SB 101 – Revises domestic relations mediation provisions in the Child Custody Act to reflect changes in the Friend of the Court Act.

SB 102 – Revises the procedures for the suspension and reinstatement of a driver's license due to a child support arrearage.

SB 103 – Provides for consolidated fees from Divorce, Paternity, and Family Support Acts.

SB 104 – Eliminates the Child Support Bench Warrant Enforcement Fund, and requires the Office of Child Support to revise the coordination of certain welfare benefits through Friend of the Court offices and determine a method to calculate the maximum obligation for reimbursement of medical expenses in connection with a mother's pregnancy and the birth of a child.

SB 105 – Deletes a provision in the Divorce Act requiring those ordered to pay spousal or child support to pay a $2 monthly service fee to the county general fund; however, the same fee would be imposed through another section of law under SB 103.

SB 106 – Provides that the parents of a child born out of wedlock are liable for the medical expenses connected to the mother's pregnancy and the birth of the child, and revises the requirements for apportioning the cost of those expenses between the parents in a paternity action.

SB 107– Adds pregnancy expenses to the amount a court can order the father of a child born out of wedlock to pay; prohibits a child support order from being retroactive to before the support complaint was filed; and provides for the abatement of any remaining unpaid pregnancy expenses if the father married the mother or became reconciled.

Senate passed (SB 100 with amendments) 2/10/09; to House Families & Children's Services 2/10/09. (Jansen, et. al.)

HB 4030 & 4132 – SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Increases the compulsory age for school attendance from 16 to 18 unless the student had written permission from a parent or guardian to stop attending school.

House passed with substitutes 3/4/09; to Senate Education 3/5/09. (Geiss)

HB 4450 – CHILD CAR SEATS

Requires that a child restraint system for a child under four years of age be positioned in the rear seat if the vehicle has a rear seat, and removes the nursing child exemption.

Introduced 2/24/09; to Transportation; reported with recommendation and referred to second reading 3/26/09. (DeShazor)

HB 4535 & 4820 – PARENTAL RIGHTS

Narrows those instances in which a parent's parental rights could be terminated based on previous cases in which the

parent had previously voluntarily given up parental rights to another child.

House passed (HB 4353 with substitute) 4/28/09; to Senate Families & Human Services 4/29/09. (Byrnes)

HB 4618 & 4727 – SENIOR EXPLOITATION

SB 4618 increases the penalties for the crime of committing or attempting financial exploitation or embezzlement of a vulnerable adult's assets. HB 4727 establishes sentencing guidelines for the increased penalties proposed by HB 4618.

Introduced 3/18/09 and 3/31/09, respectively; to Senior Health, Security & Retirement; reported with recommendation and referred to second reading 4/29/09. (Huckleberry)

HB 4763-4769 – CHILDREN'S SAFE PRODUCTS ACT

A seven-bill package amends the Public Health Code to create the "Children's Safe Products Act":

HB 4763 – Gives the Department of Community Health the power to prohibit the sale of children's products containing what it deems to be potentially harmful chemicals under a general definition proposed by HB 4764.

HB 4764 –Establishes a general definition of potentially harmful chemicals contained in children's products.

HB 4765 – Authorizes the Departments of Community Health and Environmental Quality the power to determine which substances meet the definition proposed by HB 4764 of potentially harmful chemicals contained in children's products.

HB 4766 – Requires manufacturers of products containing chemicals contained in children's products that are deemed to be harmful by the Departments of Community Health and Environmental Quality to submit detailed reports to the state regarding the products and the chemicals in them.

HB 4767 – Authorizes the Departments of Community Health and Environmental Quality to participate in a multi-state clearinghouse to promote safer alternatives to potentially harmful chemicals contained in children's products.

HB 4768 – Requires the Departments of Community Health and Environmental Quality to submit a report to the Legislature every two years on which substances they have determined meet the definition of potentially harmful chemicals contained in children's products proposed by HB 4764.

HB 4769 – Authorizes the Department of Community Health to initiate enforcement actions upon violation and to call on the Attorney General to initiate injunction proceedings to prohibit the sale of a particular product in Michigan.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Great Lakes & Environment; reported with recommendation (HB 4764-4767 & 4769 with substitutes) and referred to second reading 4/30/09. (Nerat, et. al.)

Elections/Legislative Issues

HB 4367 – ABSENTEE VOTING

Eliminates the requirement that a person give a specific reason for requesting an absentee ballot.

House passed substitute 4/30/09. (Stanley) (Similar to HB 4097 – Griffin & SB 97 – Brater.)

HCR 3 – LEGISLATIVE PAY CUT

Requests the State Officers' Compensation Commission to recommend a 5 percent reduction in salaries of the members of the Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State the next time the commission meets and to urge the commission to ensure that none of its future recommendations exceed the average increase in state employee pay.

House adopted substitute 2/4/09; to Senate Government Operations & Reform 2/5/09. (Haase)

HCR 5 – LEGISLATIVE PAY CUT

Requests the State Officers Compensation Commission to recommend a 10 percent legislative salary reduction and to endorse and follow certain performance-based pay structures.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Government Operations; notice given to discharge committee 2/4/09. (Opsommer)

HJR N – LEGISLATIVE PAY

Requires a reduction in salary for any legislator who does not attend session and does not receive an excused absence for not attending.

House adopted 3/25/09; to Senate Campaign & Election Oversight 3/26/09. (L. Brown)

Energy & Utilities

HB 4384-4392, 4649, 4650, 4655-4662 & 4673 – UTILITY PACKAGE

A 19-bill package that requires additional regulations of utility providers and provides protections for utility customers:

SB 4384-4392 – Requires utilities to comply with restrictions and regulations promulgated by the Michigan Public Service Commission on shutting off the service of a customer who hasn't paid his or her bills.

SB 4649 – Revises details in the law that requires the Department of Human Services to notify utilities serving individuals on public assistance who are eligible for heating subsidies, to allow this information to be given to any

energy "provider utility," not just ones regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).

SB 4650 – Requires the Department of Human Services to operate an electronic payment process with participating provider utilities.

SB 4655 & 4656 – Requires municipal utilities to notify the MPSC of any service shutoff that results in injury or death, and allows the Attorney General and municipal utility customers to bring civil enforcement actions against municipal utilities.

SB 4657 – Gives the MPSC the duty of recommending policies that would reduce barriers to senior or low-income utility customers receiving state subsidies.

SB 4658 & 4661 – Requires municipally-owned electric and natural gas providers to make efforts to determine which customers are senior citizens.

SB 4659 – Establishes the conditions under which a municipally-owned electric or natural gas utility could shutoff service.

SB 4660 – Requires utilities to give customers an opportunity to identify a third party who should be notified if the customer's service is shutoff for nonpayment of bills.

SB 4662 – Requires utilities to include information regarding assistance programs in shutoff notices sent to customers who have not paid their bills, as well as in regular communications to customers.

SB 4673 – Requires municipally-owned utilities to comply with MPSC rules regarding shutoff procedures.

House passed substitutes 3/31/09; to Senate Energy Policy & Public Utilities 4/2/09. (Scripps, et. al.) (Senate bills that are similar to some of the above include SB 320, 326-331, 337-339 – Jacobs, et. al.)

Health

HB 4008 – NURSES

Requires the development of an acuity system and staffing plan for nurses.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Labor; reassigned to Health Policy 2/3/09. (Liss)

HB 4475 & 4477 – AUTISM RESEARCH FUND

HB 4475 creates the Autism Research Fund, and HB 4477 allows taxpayers to donate to the fund through a checkoff on the state income tax return.

House passed 4/2/09; to Senate Finance 4/21/09. (Ball & Angerer)

Housing

HB 4050 – DELINQUENT TAXES

Establishes that overdue water or other utility bills may not be considered "delinquent taxes" for purposes of making a property subject to government forfeiture, foreclosure, and sale.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Intergovernmental, Urban & Regional Affairs; reassigned to Urban Policy 2/4/09. (B. Scott)

HB 4682 – HOME FORECLOSURES

Prohibits foreclosing the home of a senior citizens or disabled person for delinquent taxes.

Introduced 3/25/09; to Tax Policy; reported with recommendation for referral to Urban Policy 4/29/09. (Johnson)

Revenues & Appropriations

HB 4098 – DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY FEES

Repeals the driver responsibility fees ("bad driver tax") that are assessed for various driving violations that were originally adopted in 2003 to raise revenue and avoid spending cuts in that budget year and subsequent state government budgets.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Transportation; reported with recommendation for referral to Judiciary 3/26/09. (B. Scott) (Similar to SB 317 – Gleason.)

HB 4101 – DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY FEES

Allows driver responsibility fees ("bad driver tax") to be assessed for only one year instead of two.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Transportation; reported with recommendation for referral to Judiciary 3/26/09. (Jackson)

The following are appropriations bills for various state budgets for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

HB 4435 – COMMUNITY COLLEGES (SB 298)
HB 4436 – COMMUNITY HEALTH (SB 299)
HB 4437 – CORRECTIONS (SB 300)
HB 4438 – EDUCATION (SB 301)
HB 4441 – HIGHER EDUCATION (SB 305)
HB 4442 – HUMAN SERVICES (SB 306)
HB 4444 – ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH (SB 302)
HB 4447 – SCHOOL AID (K-12) (SB 310)

House passed all bills (except HB 4442 & 4444) with substitutes as amended (HB 4437 & 4441 without amendments) 4/2/09; to Senate Appropriations 4/21/09. HB 4442 & 4444 remain in House Appropriations where all of the bills were introduced 2/24/09.

HB 4722 – STATE EXPENDITURES WEBSITE

Requires the Department of Management and Budget to develop and maintain a searchable website listing of all state expenditures accessible to the public at no cost.

House passed 4/1/09; to Senate Appropriations 4/2/09. (Scripps)

Social Services

SB 257-261 – FOSTER CARE CHILD DEATHS

A package of bills addressing deaths of children while in state care:

SB 257 – Requires the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain a publicly accessible registry of statistical information regarding children's deaths.

SB 258 – Requires that if a child who is a ward of the state dies, the Department of Human Services must report the incident within 24 hours to the court that has jurisdiction, to the legislators who represent the district where the court is located, and to the state Children's Ombudsman.

SB 259 – Creates the Legislative Child Fatality Review Act to establish the Office of the Legislative Child Fatality Examiner for the purpose of identifying specific causes and systemic problems that contribute to the deaths of children in foster care.

SB 260 – Amends the Child Protection Law to make certain information available to a court that had jurisdiction over a child in a suspected child abuse or neglect case, in the event of the child's death.

SB 261 – Requires the sharing of case-specific information related to the death of a child while in state care.

Senate passed substitutes 3/19/09; to House Families & Children's Services 3/19/09. (Jansen, et. al.)

HB 4118 – FOSTER CHILDREN

Expands the procedure for placement of children in a foster home to give special consideration to relatives.

House passed substitute 3/26/09; to Senate Families & Human Services 3/31/09. (Polidori)

HB 4125 – CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN NOTICE

Requires the Department of Human Services to notify the Children's Ombudsman about the death of a child who is a ward of the State.

House passed substitute 3/12/09; to Senate Families & Human Services 3/17/09. (Spade)

HB 4409 – FOSTER CHILDREN

Allows foster parents to authorize nonemergency medical procedures for foster children.

House passed substitute 3/26/09; to Senate Families & Human Services 3/31/09. (Spade)

Taxes

SB 1 – BUSINESS TAX SURCHARGE

Phases out the surcharge on the Michigan Business Tax.

Senate passed substitute 1/29/09; to House Tax Policy 2/4/09. (Jansen)

SB 141 – HOME TAX EXEMPTION

Clarifies that a person who is absent from his or her principal residence while under the care of another person may still claim a homestead property tax exemption for the principal residence, as long as the property has not been rented out for more than two weeks a year.

Introduced 1/29/09; to Finance; reported favorably with substitute and referred to committee of the whole 4/21/09. (Olshove)

SB 191 – HOMESTEAD CREDIT INCREASE

Increases the household income ceiling for the homestead property tax credit, and increases the total credit that a taxpayer may claim.

Senate passed substitute 3/12/09; to House Tax Policy 3/12/09. (Cassis)

SB 282 & 367 – PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION

SB 282 allows that a person who is absent from his or her principal residence while in a nursing home or assisted living facility may still claim a homestead property tax exemption for the principal residence, as long as the property has not been occupied or rented out. SB 367 establishes a definition of an "assisted living" facility for the purposes of granting the principle residence tax exemption to a person living in one, as proposed by Senate Bill 282.

Introduced 3/3/09 & 3/11/09; to Finance; reported favorably without amendments and referred to committee of the whole 4/21/09. (Sanborn & Olshove)

HB 4035 – POVERTY EXEMPTION

Revises the law that allows a local government to exempt a person whose income is below the poverty level from having their property foreclosed due to delinquent property taxes.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Tax Policy; reported with recommendation for referral to Urban Policy 2/25/09. (Jackson)

HB 4126 – MBT SURCHARGE REPEAL

Repeals the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) surcharge and revises certain tax credits as a result of the surcharge.

House passed substitute as amended 3/26/09; to Senate Finance 3/31/09. (LeBlanc)

HB 4191 & 4629 – TUITION DEDUCTION

HB 4191 amends the Income Tax Act to allow a taxpayer to take a deduction from taxable income for the amount of a charitable contribution made to the Advance Tuition Payment Fund, beginning with the 2009 tax year. HB 4629 amends the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) Act to allow a similar deduction from business income under the MBT, also starting in 2009.

House passed 4/29/09; to Finance 4/30/09. (Warren & Lipton)

HB 4514 – EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Requires a person to be a state resident for at least six months to qualify for a state earned income tax credit.

House passed substitute 3/18/09; to Senate Finance 3/19/09. (Lahti)

HB 4675 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Makes unemployment insurance benefits paid to a laid-off worker in 2009 and 2010 deductible for state income tax purposes.

Introduced 3/24/09; to Labor; reassigned to Tax Policy 4/1/09. (DeShazor)

Miscellaneous

SB 411 & 412 – CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

SB 411 establishes financial management regulations for charitable organizations, including good faith and prudent person standards for managers. SB 412 revises the Nonprofit Corporation Act to conform to the management regulations for charitable organizations proposed by SB 411.

Senate passed substitutes (SB 411 with amendments) 4/22/09; to House Banking & Financial Services 4/22/09. (Garcia)

HB 4083-4094 – HIRE MICHIGAN FIRST

Amends a number of state purchasing and contracting statutes and economic development statutes to require that preference be given to residents of Michigan and to disqualify firms from eligibility unless they agree not to knowingly hire individuals who are not authorized under federal law to work in the United States. The bills also require state agencies and local units of government to report annually on their compliance with hiring and contracting requirements and with the impact of their activities on Michigan jobs.

House passed all bills (HB 4086 & 4094 with substitutes and HB 4091 & 4092 with substitutes as amended); to Senate Commerce & Tourism 3/18/09; discharge committee defeated 4/1/09. (Miller, et. al.) (Similar to SB 285-296 – Gleason, et. al.)

HB 4166 & 4607 – REFUND LOANS

Creates two new acts to require providers of tax refund anticipation loans to disclose certain information to customers, before an application for a refund anticipation loan was completed and prior to entering into a loan agreement, to prohibit certain conduct on the part of a person who facilitated a refund anticipation loan and to make a violation a criminal offense; creates a right of rescission for a borrower who has a change of mind, and restricts municipalities from limiting the act's applicability.

House passed substitutes 3/24/09; to Senate Banking & Financial Institutions 3/25/09. (Tlaib & Johnson) (HB 4166 is similar to SB 189 – Thomas.)

BILLS INTRODUCED

Status of bills updated through April 30, 2009.

Children & Families

SB 67 – CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGES

Requires that if a person who owes child support payments wins a lawsuit settlement or judgment, the payer, the payer's attorney, and the person who has to pay the judgment all have a duty to notify the recipient of the child support payments.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Families & Human Services. (Kahn)

SB 68 – CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGES

Requires the Detroit casinos, before making any payout greater than $1,000, to determine if Department of

Treasury records show that the wagerer has a current support arrearage, and to subsequently send the amount owed to the Department to be forwarded to the child support payee. The bill also requires the State to try to make a deal with the Indian casinos to follow the same procedure.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Families & Human Services. (Gilbert)

SB 458 – CHILD SUPPORT NONPAYMENT

Makes a "nonpayment of child support" offense exempt from the law that requires a probation officer to prepare a written presentencing report for the court.

Introduced 4/22/09; to Judiciary. (Switalski)

SB 461 – TOBACCO SALES TO MINORS

Increases the penalties for selling tobacco to minors.

Introduced 4/23/09; to Judiciary. (Basham)

HB 4005 – PARENTAL RIGHTS

Requires that the documents required when a court terminates the parental rights of a putative father be notarized.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Calley)

HB 4015 – ADOPTION RECORDS

Allows access to certain adoption records unless a denial is on record.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Liss)

HB 4061 – CHILD SUPPORT

Provides for the termination of child support obligations when DNA evidence demonstrates the payer is not the biological parent.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Lemmons)

HB 4169 – CHILD PLACEMENT

Requires the parents of a child who government authorities are considering removing from the home and placing in foster care to give the Department of Human Services the names and addresses of any relatives of the child.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Dean)

HB 4197 – PARENTING TIME

Extends to great-grandparents the provisions of the law that establishes conditions and procedures for grandparents to be granted "grandparenting time" with the children in child custody disputes.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Espinoza)

HB 4493 – YOUNG DRIVERS

Prohibits first-year drivers from having more than one passenger under 18 years of age, other than a family member, in the car.

Introduced 3/3/09; to Transportation. (LeBlanc)

HB 4522 – KID PRODUCTS

Prohibits the manufacturing and selling of children's products that contain "Bisphenol A," used in certain plastics.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Great Lakes & Environment. (Meadows)

Corrections

SB 168 – WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT

Provides compensation to individuals who have been wrongfully incarcerated.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Judiciary. (Scott)

SB 171 – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Requires community mental health services programs to give priority in providing treatment to a person diverted from jail.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Judiciary. (Brater)

SB 477 – PRISON HEALTH CARE

Requires the Department of Corrections to enter into agreements with one or more medical schools in Michigan under which those schools would provide health care services to prisoners.

Introduced 4/28/09; to Judiciary. (George)

HB 4112-4115 – PRISONER REENTRY

A package of bills that encourages and assists prisoners in obtaining a state identification card for their use upon release.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Judiciary. (Lori) (Similar to SB 271-273 – Scott)

HB 4136 – JAIL DIVERSION

Allows for a jail diversion program for certain individuals with mental illness or disabilities.

Introduced 2/4/09; to Judiciary. (Constan) (Similar to HB 4372 – Warren.)

HB 4322 – COMMUNITY SERVICE

Establishes penalties for a criminal who falsifies documentation related to performing community service that has been ordered as a condition of probation.

Introduced 2/18/09; to Judiciary. (Spade)

HB 4333 – PRISONER ACCOUNTS

Issues all prisoners upon release with a debit card to access any money remaining in their institutional account.

Introduced 2/18/09; to Judiciary. (Lori)

HB 4497-4499 – GOOD TIME

Restores "good time" system for all prisoners and eliminates disciplinary credits and disciplinary time.

Introduced 3/3/09; to Judiciary. (Cushingberry)

HB 4705 – INDIGENT CLIENTS

HB 4705 imposes a surcharge on criminal bail payments and a graduated probation fee (based on the probationer's income), and dedicates revenue to the Indigent Defense Counsel Fund. HB 4706 creates an Indigent Defense Counsel Fund to pay for defense lawyers for indigent defendants.

Introduced 3/26/09; to Judiciary. (Cushingberry)

HB 4790 & 4791 – WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT

HB 4790 provides compensation to individuals who have been wrongfully incarcerated. HB 4791 provides for an income tax deduction for compensation received under the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Judiciary. (Switalski)

Disabled

SB 177 – AUTISM

Establishes a fund in the Department of Community Health to provide grants to hospitals or universities for research, diagnosis, and treatment of autism, and research on the triggers of autism.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Finance. (Hunter)

HB 4183 & 4476 – AUTISM TREATMENT

Provides insurance coverage for certain treatments related to autism.

Introduced 2/5/09 & 2/26/09, respectively; to Health Policy. (Ball & Angerer) (Similar to SB 359 & 360 – Hunter.)

Economic Development

HB 4723 – RENAISSANCE ZONES

Authorizes the creation of a border crossing renaissance zone.

Introduced 3/31/09; to Commerce. (Espinoza)

HB 4725 – NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE ZONES

Expands neighborhood enterprise zone eligibility.

Introduced 3/31/09; to Commerce. (Espinoza)

Education

SB 56 – MEAP TESTS

Replaces the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test given to grade school students with a nationally recognized, commercially available academic achievement test, and requires students in grades 3 through 8 to take the test each year.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Education. (Switalski) (Similar to HB 4771 – Haase.)

SB 62 – EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Allows Intermediate School Districts to request millage to impose a property tax increase of up to 1 mill for a district-wide early childhood education program.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Education. (Jacobs)

SB 117 – K-3 CLASS SIZE

Requires the reduction of class sizes in grades K-3 over a five-year period.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Economic Development & Regulatory Reform. (Clark-Coleman)

SB 119 – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR BARGAINING

Restores collective bargaining rights for public school administrators.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Education. (Clark-Coleman) (Similar to HB 4807 – Jackson.)

SB 159 – BULLYING POLICY

Requires schools to adopt policies prohibiting harassment and bullying at school.

Introduced 1/29/09; to Education. (Anderson) (Similar to SB 275 – Jelinek & HB 4580 – Byrnes.)

SB 352 – HIGHER EDUCATION GARNISHMENT

Exempts garnishment of higher education savings plans from enforcements of court judgments or bankruptcy.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Judiciary. (Anderson)

SB 365 & 366 – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Revises the physical education requirements in schools, and requires schools to comply with the new requirements in order to receive the full per pupil allocation.

Introduced 3/12/09; to Health Policy. (George & Allen)

SB 391 – MICHIGAN PROMISE GRANT

Modifies the eligibility criteria to qualify for the Michigan Promise Grant.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Education. (Cherry)

SB 451-453 – FAILING SCHOOLS - DETROIT

SB 451 – Gives the Department of Education the authority to impose new standards and procedures on failed schools within the Detroit school district

SB 452 – Creates a pilot incentive program in one Detroit high school that would provide incentives for students based on performance in core classes.

SB 453 – Creates a pilot program in one Detroit school that would offer incentive pay for teachers.

Introduced 4/22/09; to Education. (Clarke)

SJR B – SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Places before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment that would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections if the election does not include a school millage or school bond ballot proposal.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Switalski)

HB 4190 – MERIT AWARD

Requires that a student receiving a legislative merit award college scholarships be a U.S. citizen or be in the process of becoming one legally.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Judiciary. (Agema)

HB 4262 – CLASS SIZE

Requires schools that contain a certain percentage of low - income students (as determined by the number who qualify for free lunches), from having a kindergarten through third grade (K-3) average class size of more than 17 students per class (with not more than 19 students in any particular class).

Introduced 2/17/09; to Education. (Liss)

HB 4344 & 4345 – TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS

HB 4344 establishes a state program to give certain teachers in at-risk public or nonpublic schools (ones with half or more students from lower income families) a grant each year equal to 10 percent of their student loan debt. HB 4345 requires the Department of Education to notify each college or university in this state that offers a teacher preparation program and each at-risk school of the availability of the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.

Introduced 2/18/09; to Education. (Barnett & Liss)

HB 4346 – FOUNDATION ALLOWANCE

Requires the Legislature to work toward equalizing the state per-pupil foundation grant for all school districts.

Introduced 2/18/09; to Appropriations. (Slavens)

HB 4410 – DIPLOMA CURRICULUM

Provides for a general diploma curriculum as an alternative for high school graduation.

Introduced 2/24/09; to Education. (Sheltrown)

HB 4413 – SCHOOL AID BUDGET

Requires the Legislature to adopt a school aid budget by July 1 of each year.

Introduced 2/24/09; to Appropriations. (Hildenbrand)

HB 4464 – SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Creates a grant program, using a portion of state School Aid funds, for the placement of safety officers and mental health professionals in public schools.

Introduced 2/24/09; to Appropriations. (Leland)

HB 4490 – CHARTER CAP

Eliminates the 150-school cap on the number of charter schools (public school academies) that can be authorized by universities.

Introduced 3/3/09; to Education. (McMillin)

HB 4511 – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Allows a student's teacher or counselor, with approval from the parent or guardian, to request a less rigorous "personal curriculum" for the student that modifies certain of the Michigan merit standard requirements.

Introduced 3/4/09; to Education. (Geiss)

HB 4527 – SCHOOL RETIREMENT

Provides for a defined contribution retirement plan for new public school employees instead of the traditional defined benefit pension system.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Labor. (Rogers)

HB 4534 – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Repeals the state high school graduation requirements adopted in 2006.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Education. (Calley)

HB 4609 – SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

Provides for expenditure reporting requirements for school districts and public school academies.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Education. (Meltzer)

HB 4644 & 4645 – TRUANCY/DRIVER'S LICENSE

HB 4644 prohibits a high school student who has been cited for persistent and willful truancy from getting a driver's license for six months following the citation, or suspends their license if they already have one. HB 4645 requires the family division of the circuit court to notify the Secretary of State of a truancy disposition.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Transportation. (Johnson)

HB 4667 – SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Creates a pilot program for increased school counselors.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Education. (Donigan)

HB 4712 – CLASS SIZE

Requires smaller class sizes in schools that have failed to meet student performance standards for four years in a row.

Introduced 3/26/09; to Education. (Jackson)

HB 4741 – PRIVATIZATION

Prohibits a public school from privatizing noninstructional services (including transportation, custodian, and food service) unless it first performs a cost-benefit analysis.

Introduced 3/31/09; to Labor. (Rick Jones)

HB 4787-4789 – FAILING SCHOOLS

A package of bills to aid schools that have failed to meet performance standards for four years in a row.

HB 4787 – Authorizes the conversion of failing public schools into "turnaround schools," which would be charter schools managed by a private charter school management company with a successful record.

HB 4788 – Provides for changes in the Collective Bargaining Act to allow more flexibility in failing schools.

HB 4789 – Authorizes state funding for a failing school that has been converted into a "turnaround school" (charter school), under the same terms as apply to regular charter schools.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Education. (Melton & Johnson)

HB 4792 – BULLYING POLICY

Encourages school boards to work with law enforcement and parents in implementing policies that prohibit bullying or harassment at school.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Education. (P. Scott)

HB 4837 – COLLEGE DEGREES

Allows community colleges to grant bachelor degrees in nursing, cement technology, or culinary arts.

Introduced 4/28/09; to Education. (Walsh)

HJR C – TUITION RATE HIKES

Limits increases for in-state tuition rates of state universities based on the Consumer Price Index.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Education. (Calley)

Elections/Legislative Issues

SB 7 – PETITION LANGUAGE

Requires that petition initiative language be approved by the Board of State Canvassers and outlaws soliciting a signature through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Introduced 1/14/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Gleason)

SB 9 – RECALLS

Sets limits on when recall petitions can be filed and for what actions the recall can be directed against.

Introduced 1/14/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Gleason)

SB 12 – AUTOMATED POLITICAL CALLS

Requires disclosure of an individual or committee making an automated political call ("robocall").

Introduced 1/14/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Hardiman)

SB 51 – ABSENTEE VOTING

Allows a person to vote by absentee ballot on the first election after registering by mail to vote in a jurisdiction.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Cherry)

SB 52 – EARLY VOTING

Establishes procedures for early voting.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Cherry) (Similar to HB 4368 – Stanley.)

SB 61 – VOTER PREREGISTRATION

Allows 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote as part of the graduated driver licensing program.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Brown) (Similar to HB 4261 – Liss & HB 4337 – Robert Jones.)

SB 113 – CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMPLAINTS

Modifies the provision relating to campaign finance complaints.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (McManus)

SB 144 – BALLOT ISSUE REPORTS

Modifies the reporting requirements for ballot question committees.

Introduced 1/29/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (McManus)

SB 394 – RECALLS

Bars recalls of elected officials for malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance in office.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Switalski)

SB 413 – BALLOT LANGUAGE

Requires the language of statewide ballot initiatives that propose to amend the State Constitution be preapproved for clarity by the State Board of Canvassers prior to circulation.

Introduced 3/31/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Gleason)

SB 443 – FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Requires certain candidates for elective and state office to file a financial disclosure report.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (Anderson)

SJR A – PART-TIME LEGISLATURE/TERM LIMITS

Places before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment to repeal legislative term limits and replace the current full time legislature with a part time legislature beginning in 2011.

Introduced 1/14/09; to Government Operations & Reform. (Bishop)

SJR C – INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM SIGNATURES

Amends the Constitution to clarify provisions for a voter referendum on enacted laws which contain appropriations and to require a minimum number of signatures in at least 42 counties on petitions for referenda and initiated laws.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Campaign & Election Oversight. (McManus)

SJR G – TERM LIMITS

Extends term limits to six terms for House members and three terms for members of the Senate.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Government Operations & Reform. (Jacobs)

HB 4002 – AUTOMATED POLITICAL CALLS

Amends the Michigan Election Law to prohibit automated campaign telephone calls.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Opsommer)

HB 4022 – AUTOMATED POLITICAL CALLS

Provides for a do-not-call list for automated political telephone calls under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Rick Jones)

HB 4027 – POLLING PLACES

Extends to 500 feet, from 100 feet, the distance from a polling place where political activities are prohibited.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Hammel)

HB 4133 – LEGISLATOR BENEFITS

Eliminates retirement health care benefits for legislators elected after November 2004.

Introduced 2/4/09; to Government Operations. (Calley)

HB 4194 – LEGISLATOR BENEFITS

Eliminates retirement health care benefits for legislators elected after January 2007.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Government Operations. (Slavens)

HB 4232 – AUTOMATED POLITICAL CALLS

Requires automated election campaign phone calls to voters that relate to a candidate to include disclosure of who is paying for the call.

Introduced 2/10/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Horn)

HB 4364 – PAID PETITIONS

Requires the name of an individual or organization providing compensation to a circulator of a ballot petition to be printed on the front of the petition.

Introduced 2/19/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Rocca)

HB 4379 – LEGISLATOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Prohibits legislators from voting on bills when a substantial conflict of interest exists.

Introduced 2/19/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Barnett)

HB 4539 & 4540 – VOTER REGISTRATION

Allows a person to register to vote electronically on the Secretary of State's website.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Liss) (Similar to SB 347 & SB 348 – Olshove & Jacobs.)

HB 4560 – RECALL PETITIONS

Revises recall petitions and procedures.

Introduced 3/11/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Ball)

HB 4613 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Repeals the exemptions from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act for records in the possession of legislators and their staff, the governor, lieutenant governor, their executive offices and employees. Communications from constituents to legislators would still be exempt from disclosure.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Government Operations. (Lund)

HB 4822 – CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

Extends to candidates running to be a delegate to a potential Constitutional Convention the same campaign finance disclosure requirements and regulations that apply to other candidates for public office.

Introduced 4/22/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Knollenberg)

HCR 16 – STATE COMPENSATION

Rejects the proposed increase in rates of compensation recommended by the Civil Service Commission and contained in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Introduced 4/1/09; to Government Operations. (Moss)

HJR F – LEGISLATIVE PAY

Reduces legislative pay on a prorated basis for unexcused session absences.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Government Operations. (Rogers)

HJR K – LEGISLATIVE PAY

Provides for a reduction of legislative pay if the state unemployment rate exceeds a certain amount.

Introduced 2/17/09; to Government Operations. (McMillin)

HJR L – TERM LIMITS

Repeals term limits for legislators.

Introduced 2/18/09; to Ethics & Elections. (Cushingberry)

HR 42 – LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT

Expresses the sense of the Legislature that the legislative retirement system needs to be changed to reduce health benefits.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Government Operations. (Ball)

Employment & Economy

SB 5 – UNEMPLOYMENT

Prohibits certain practices in the calculation of contribution rates of unemployment tax contributions.

Introduced 1/14/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Jansen)

SB 25 – YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Revises the maximum number of hours that minors age 16 and 17 who are in school can work.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Economic Development & Regulatory Reform. (Stamas)

SB 152 – STATE CONTRACTS

Prohibits the State from giving contracts to businesses that employ illegal aliens.

Introduced 1/29/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Anderson)

SB 209 – UNEMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Allows disclosure of confidential unemployment insurance system information to public officials in the performance of their official duties, subject to confidentiality provisions.

Introduced 2/10/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Gilbert)

SB 262 – ENTERPRISE ZONES

Raises the maximum value above which property is no longer eligible for "neighborhood enterprise zone" property tax breaks, and extends the time a local government has to hold a required public hearing on the creation of such a zone.

Introduced 2/18/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Allen)

SB 414 – UNEMPLOYMENT DEBIT CARDS

Prohibits the state unemployment benefit system from requiring recipients to receive benefits through debit cards if they have to pay a fee for the cards.

Introduced 3/31/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Prusi)

SB 486-489 – PAY EQUITY

A package of bills that address pay equity in the workplace.

SB 486 – Requires equal compensation for comparable work.

SB 487 – Modifies the provision regarding wage discrimination based on gender.

SB 488 – Establishes a Commission on Pay Equity to develop definitions, models, and guidelines for employers and employees on pay equity.

SB 489 – Increases penalties for wage discrimination based on gender.

Introduced 4/29/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Brater & Whitmer) (Similar to HB 4851-4854 – Bauer, et. al.)

SB 502 – PREVAILING WAGE

Sets requirements for prevailing wage compliance on state contracts.

Introduced 4/30/09; to Commerce & Tourism. (Allen)

HB 4081 – RIGHT-TO-WORK ZONES

Authorizes the creation of right to work zones whereby employers would be prohibited from compelling an employee or prospective employee to join or financially support a union as a condition of employment.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Labor. (Knollenberg)

HB 4186 – WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Prohibits workers compensation insurance benefits to an illegal alien who used fraudulent identification to obtain the job on which he or she was injured and whose employer did not know the person was an illegal alien; requires workers compensation bureau employees to report to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service if they believe a benefits claim has been filed by an illegal alien.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Judiciary. (Agema)

HB 4275 – STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE

Prohibits the State from paying a higher percentage of the premium or other cost of health benefits for each state employee than the average for all the other states.

Introduced 2/17/09; to Government Operations. (McMillin)

HB 4467 – WORKER FREEDOM

Prohibits an employer from requiring its employees to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or participate in any communication if the primary purpose is to communicate the employer's opinion about religious or political matters, except as necessary to comply with another law.

Introduced 2/25/09; to Labor. (Meadows)

HB 4528-4531 – EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

The following bills provide protections for employees:

HB 4528 - Prohibits an employer from making employment decisions based on an individual's credit history, unless a good credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position.

HB 4529 - Prohibits an employer from having a policy against employing an individual on the basis of an individual's body type, degree of physical fitness, or other physical characteristics, to the extent that these are not an established bona fide occupational requirement or that they impair an employment activity or responsibility.

HB 4530 - Prohibits an employer from making employment decisions based on the health or illness of an employee's family member.

HB 4531 - Prohibits an employer from having a policy against employing an individual on the basis of legal conduct by the individual during nonworking hours.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Labor. (Switalski, et. al.)

HB 4641 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Allows unemployment insurance benefits for an individual who leaves a job due to domestic violence.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Labor. (Johnson)

HB 4754 – WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Requires Worker's Compensation to include a cost-of-living provision.

Introduced 4/1/09; to Labor. (Jackson)

HB 4772 – OPEN MEETINGS ACT EXEMPTION

Creates an exemption to the Open Meetings Act for the Employment Relations Commission.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Labor. (Kennedy)

HB 4785 & 4786 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HB 4785 provides extended benefits to individuals who exhaust regular benefits and are enrolled in an approved job training program. HB 4786 provides unemployment benefits to individuals who are available for, and seeking, only part-time work.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Labor. (Hammel & Johnson)
(Similar to SB 444 & 445 – Cherry & Hunter.)

HB 4813 – STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

Authorizes a retirement incentive for state employees whose age and years of government employment add up to at least 80 and who retire before October. 1, 2009.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Labor. (Rick Jones)

HB 4816 – STATE PAYROLL OUTSOURCING

Requires the Department of Management and Budget to determine the true cost of operating and maintaining the central payroll system and to solicit bids to private vendors.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Government Operations. (Walsh)

HR 45 – STATE EMPLOYEE PAY CUT

Urges the Civil Service Commission to negotiate and implement a 5 percent reduction of pay and benefits for state employees.

Introduced 3/12/09; to Government Operations. (Agema)

HR 49 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Urges the U.S. Congress to enact H.R. 155, the suspension of federal income tax on Unemployment Benefits Act of 2009.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Labor. (Kowall)

Energy & Utilities

SB 120 – SENIOR UTILITY RATES

Revises the discount rate of utilities for senior citizens so that it does not penalize users if they use more than the discount threshold.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Energy Policy & Public Utilities. (Clark-Coleman)

HB 4049 – ENERGY SHUTOFF

Prohibits utility shutoffs for individuals with certain medical conditions.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Energy & Technology. (B. Scott)

Health

SB 15 & 16 – HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

SB 15 allows for the establishment of long-term health care savings accounts. SB 16 provides an income tax deduction for contributions to long-term health care savings accounts.

Introduced 1/14/09; to Health Policy. (Hardiman)

SB 178 & 179 – HEARING TESTS

Requires health insurers to cover the cost of audiological screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Labor. (Hunter)

SB 182 – UNUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Establishes a procedure for donating medication to a repository for distribution to medically indigent individuals.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Judiciary. (Olshove)

SB 206 – HEALTH CARE WHISTLEBLOWERS

Extends whistleblower protections to health care workers.

Introduced 2/10/09; to Health Policy. (Cherry)

SB 356 – MEDICAL BENEFITS

Prohibits health insurance providers or plans from acting on a drug company's behalf by paying or providing incentives to doctors to use or not use particular drugs.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Health Policy. (Patterson)

SB 423 & 424 – REQUIRED VACCINES

Requires health insurance providers to pay for vaccines required as a condition of attending a K-12 school.

Introduced 4/1/09; to Health Policy. (Jacobs)

HB 4160 – MIDWEST PHARMACEUTICAL COMPACT

Enters Michigan into the Midwest Pharmaceutical Compact to negotiate prices with manufacturers and buy prescription drugs for recipients of Medicaid and other state-funded health care services, and for any other category of individuals the compact deems eligible.

Introduced 2/4/09; to Health Policy. (Smith)

HB 4466 – SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

Establishes a single-payer health care system.

Introduced 2/25/09; to Health Policy. (Johnson)

HB 4707 & 4708 – MEDICAID

HB 4707 revises the Medicaid eligibility income and asset caps for individuals who are at less than 250 percent of the poverty rate. HB 4708 revises the sliding-scale fees that individuals who are between 135 percent of the poverty rate and up to $75,000 income for a household of one may pay to obtain Medicaid coverage.

Introduced 3/26/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Slezak & Schuitmaker) (Similar to SB 446 & 447 – Van Woerkom & Gleason.)

HB 4865 – HEARING AID DEALERS

Increases the hearing aid dealer licensure fee.

Introduced 4/29/09; to Regulatory Reform. (Byrnes)

HR 39 – AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

Urges the U.S. Congress to take the necessary short- and long-term actions to make health insurance coverage affordable for millions of Americans without employment–based coverage in the individual market.

Introduced 3/4/09; to Labor. (Rogers)

HR 58 – AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

Urges Michigan's Congressional Delegation to take the lead in creating an American solution to our nation's health care crisis.

Introduced 3/26/09; to Health Policy. (Gregory)

Housing

SB 29-33 – FORECLOSURES

SB 29 – Provides a two-year moratorium on home foreclosures.

SB 30 – Requires courts to postpone a final judgment on a delinquent tax foreclosure during the two-year mortgage foreclosure moratorium proposed by SB 29.

SB 31 – Authorizes borrowing by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for the purpose of guaranteeing loans to homeowners facing foreclosure.

SB 32 – Requires the owner of a foreclosed property to give a 90-day notice of eviction to tenants.

SB 33 – Establishes that a term of a lease or rental agreement for a foreclosed property is transferred to the acquirer of the property thereby ensuring that the tenants retain their rights until the lease or rental agreement expires.

Introduced 1/27/09 & 1/28/09; to Banking & Financial Institutions. (Clarke, et. al.)

SB 185 – DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

Allows for certain victims of domestic abuse to terminate leases without penalty.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Economic Development & Regulatory Reform. (Garcia)

SB 283 – NONPROFIT HOUSES

Assesses houses owned by certain nonprofit organizations and Habitat for Humanity at the sales price.

Introduced 3/3/09; to Finance. (Jelinek)

SB 350 – FORECLOSURES

Allows the register of deeds of a county having a population of more than 500,000 and less than 1,500,000 to determine the amount necessary for a home loan borrower to redeem a foreclosed property.

Introduced 3/10/09; to Banking & Financial Institutions. (Cassis)

HB 4033 & 4034 – FORECLOSURE MORATORIUM

Makes a one-year moratorium on residential mortgage and land contract foreclosures.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Banking & Financial Services. (Jackson)

HB 4052 – HOMEOWNERSHIP PRESERVATION

Creates the Michigan Homeownership Preservation Fund to provide subsidies to low-income individuals seeking to avoid foreclosure on home loans, subsidies for down payments to people seeking mortgages, and various other purposes.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Banking & Financial Services. (B. Scott)

HB 4801 – RENTAL MOBILE HOMES

Expands the rental home inspection program to cover rented mobile homes.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Intergovernmental, Urban & Regional Affairs. (Constan)

HB 4869 – EVICTIONS

Allows property managers to represent landlords in eviction proceedings.

Introduced 4/30/09; to Judiciary. (Sheltrown)

HR 35 – HOMEOWNERS PROTECTION

Urges the U.S. Congress to create the Homeowners and Bank Protection Act.

Introduced 2/26/09; to Banking & Financial Services. (B. Scott)

Juvenile Justice

HB 4139 – JUVENILE CRIMES

Provides for fines against a juvenile who commits a crime that involves a violent act or a threat of a violent act against another juvenile, and provides counseling for the juvenile and his or her parents.

Introduced 2/4/09; to Judiciary. (Jackson)

HB 4518 & HB 4594-4596 – LIFE SENTENCING

A package of bills to prohibit sentencing juveniles to imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole, and allows for the parole of certain juvenile offenders sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Introduced 3/5/09 & 3/17/09; to Judiciary. (Johnson, et. al.)

Mental Health

SB 421 – CONSOLIDATION PLAN

Requires the Department of Community Health to recommend a plan within two years to reduce the number of regional or community mental authorities to 18.

Introduced 4/1/09; to Families & Human Services. (Jacobs)

HB 4597-4600 – TREATMENT COVERAGE

A package of bills that prohibits health insurers from applying more restrictive conditions on coverage for mental

health and substance abuse inpatient and outpatient treatment than apply to other health coverage.

Introduced 3/17/09; to Health Policy. (Warren, et. al.)

HB 4809 – ASSESSMENT STANDARD

Creates a simplified uniform assessment standard at community mental health agencies to determine if a person needs mental health services.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Health Policy. (Rick Jones)

HB 4831 – MEDICAID MENTAL TREATMENT

Makes psychiatric treatment provided by a service provider outside of a community mental health services program or specialty prepaid medical programs eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

Introduced 4/23/09; to Health Policy. (McDowell)

Revenues & Appropriations

SB 74 – BUDGET DEADLINE

Establishes a target deadline of May 30 of each year to complete passage of the State Budget.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Finance. (Pappageorge)

SB 127 – DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY FEES

Revises responsibility and payment method for driver responsibility fees.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Judiciary. (Brown)

SB 210 – SCHOOL AID SUPPLEMENTAL

Provides supplemental appropriations for School Aid for the 2009 fiscal year.

Introduced 2/11/09; to Appropriations. (Jelinek)

SB 480 – SCHOOL AID DISTRIBUTION

Reduces the amount of Michigan Business Tax revenue earmarked to the School Aid Fund (SAF) to offset new revenue the SAF will begin receiving in FY 2008-09 from the new use tax on medical services provided by Medicaid managed care organizations.

Introduced 4/28/09; to Appropriations. (Kahn)

HB 4029 – REVENUE SHARING

Provides for a per capita distribution of revenue sharing for cities, villages, and townships.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Appropriations. (Moore)

HB 4108 – GENERAL FUND SURPLUS

Establishes that any unspent appropriations at the close of a fiscal year shall be deposited in the state "rainy day" fund, rather than the state general fund.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Appropriations. (Schuitmaker)

HB 4179 – ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT COSTS

Provides for a state report on the recovery of federal reimbursement for costs associated with illegal immigrants.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Governmental Operations. (Opsommer)

HCR 15 – BIENNIAL STATE BUDGETS

Expresses support for the concept of preparing biennial state budgets.

Introduced 2/26/09; to Appropriations. (Proos)

HJR O – GOVERNMENT GROWTH

Adopts a taxpayer bill of rights to limit government growth.

Introduced 2/25/09; to Judiciary. (Lund)

HJR Q – STATE BUDGET

Requires the State Budget to be appropriated off of the Revenue Estimating Conference figures.

Introduced 4/2/09; to Appropriations. (Rogers)

Seniors & Adult Services

SB 183 & 184 – EMBEZZLEMENT

SB 183 establishes sentencing guidelines for the increased penalties for financial exploitation or embezzlement of a vulnerable adult's assets. SB 184 increases the penalties for the crime of committing or attempting financial exploitation or embezzlement of a vulnerable adult's assets.

Introduced 2/3/09; to Judiciary. (Olshove)

SB 343 – VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE

Increases the rigor of sentencing guidelines for crimes against vulnerable adults, and allows for consecutive sentencing where there are multiple counts.

Introduced 3/5/09; to Judiciary. (Anderson)

SB 392 & 393 – SENIOR CITIZEN ASSAULT

Authorizes enhanced penalties for aggravated assault against a person age 80 or older.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Judiciary. (Basham)

HB 4621 – VULNERABLE ADULT TESTIMONY

Allows videotape or closed-circuit television testimony of a vulnerable adult in cases involving financial exploitation or embezzlement of a vulnerable adult's assets.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Senior Health, Security & Retirement. (Slavens)

Social Services

SB 274 – DRIVER'S LICENSE FEE WAIVER

Waives the driver license application fee for individuals whose incomes are below 125 percent of the poverty level.

Introduced 2/19/09; to Transportation. (Scott)

SR 27 – GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Urges the U.S. Congress to take certain actions with regard to the federal guardianship assistance program.

Introduced 3/25/09; to Families & Human Services. (Clark-Coleman)

HB 4287 – FOOD STAMP CARD FRAUD

Authorizes a $5,000 civil fine against merchants who commit food stamp fraud.

Introduced 2/17/09; to Judiciary. (Switalski)

HB 4461 – STATE ASSISTANCE

Allows an individual who has collected welfare for the 48-month maximum period to collect another two years' worth of public assistance if the person has paid back previous cash assistance benefits or has performed community service at nonprofit organizations for a number of hours to be determined by the Department of Human Services. The bill also withholds cash assistance if the recipient's children are skipping school, and requires the parent of a child under five years old to participate in an early childhood education program that is available in his or her area in order to continue to be eligible for state assistance.

Introduced 2/24/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Horn)

HB 4636 – FOOD ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Allows food assistance recipients to use their EBT (electronic benefits transfer) bridge cards at certain approved restaurants.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Families & Children's Services. (Johnson)

HB 4643 – FOSTER CARE HOMES

Sets a limitation on the number of adult foster care homes in a region or municipality.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Regulatory Reform. (Johnson)

HB 4826 – ADULT FOSTER CARE MONITORING

Allows electronic monitoring devices in adult foster care facilities, under certain circumstances.

Introduced 4/22/09; to Senior Health, Security & Retirement. (Tlaib)

Taxes

SB 73 – HOMESTEAD CREDIT INCREASE

Increases the household income cap for claiming a homestead property tax credit against the state income tax.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Finance. (Pappageorge)

SB 121 – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Revises qualifying household income.

Introduced 1/28/09; to Finance. (Clark-Coleman)

SB 139 – HOME CARE CREDIT

Creates an income tax credit for caring for parents in the home.

Introduced 1/29/09; to Finance. (Olshove)

SB 228 – VENDING MACHINE TAX

Eliminates the sales tax exemption for vending machines.

Introduced 2/17/09; to Finance. (Switalski)

SB 335 – HOMESTEAD CREDIT

Increases from the maximum value of the homestead property tax credit that a person whose household income is less than $50,000 can claim on his or her state income tax.

Introduced 3/5/09; to Finance. (Hunter)

SB 336 – POVERTY EXEMPTIONS

Modifies the property tax criteria for poverty exemptions.

Introduced 3/5/09; to Finance. (Hunter)

SB 404 & 405 – FILM CREDITS

SB 404 caps at $50 million annually the film production subsidies passed in 2008, lowers the value of the refundable credits, requires 90 percent of the employees to be

Michigan residents, and requires monthly internet posting reporting detailed information on each production granted a subsidy. SB 405 increases the film and digital media infrastructure project investment subsidies passed in 2008.

.Introduced 3/25/09; to Finance. (Gilbert & Cassis)

SB 491 – CIGARETTE TAX

Cuts the state's cigarette tax.

Introduced 4/29/09; to Finance. (Gilbert)

HB 4001 – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Increases from $1,200 to $1,700 the maximum value of the homestead property tax credit that a person with an income below a certain level can claim on his or her state income tax, and raises the maximum income level cap on these credits.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Tax Policy. (Opsommer)

HB 4036 – INCOME TAX

Authorizes an income tax exemption for a taxpayer who provides care for an older parent or grandparent who lives in the taxpayer's home.

Introduced 1/22/09; to Tax Policy. (Lori)

HB 4120 – MBT SURCHARGE REPEAL

Repeals the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) surcharge.

Introduced 1/27/09; to Tax Policy. (Rogers)

HB 4165 – MBT SURCHARGE REPEAL

Provides a two-year phase-out of the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) surcharge.

Introduced 2/4/09; to Tax Policy. (P. Scott)

HB 4171 – HOMELESS FUND

Provides for an increase in the county real estate transfer tax for communities creating a Homeless Trust Fund.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Intergovernmental & Regional Affairs. (Robert Jones)

HB 4173 – HOMELESS FUND

Establishes reporting procedures for the Homeless Trust Fund.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Intergovernmental & Regional Affairs. (Robert Jones)

HB 4207 – FOOD PANTRIES

Exempts materials used to construct church- and community-based food pantries from the sales tax.

Introduced 2/5/09; to Tax Policy. (Pearce)

HB 4227 – INCOME TAX CUT

Reduces the personal income tax rate from 4.35 percent to 4.25 percent starting October 1, 2009; 4.1 percent one year later; and 3.9 percent on October 1, 2011.

Introduced 2/10/09; to Tax Policy. (McMillin)

HB 4240 – HEARING AID CREDIT

Provides a tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids.

Introduced 2/10/09; to Tax Policy. (Caul) (Similar to SB 403 – Hunter.)

HB 4366 – MEDICATIONS

Exempts nonprescription drugs from sales tax.

Introduced 2/19/09; to Tax Policy. (Rocca)

HB 4651 – MBT SURCHARGE PHASE-OUT

Phases out the Michigan Business Tax surcharge over three years.

Introduced 3/19/09; to Tax Policy. (Hildenbrand)

HB 4676 – NONPROFIT HOUSING

Exempts homes owned by Habitat for Humanity or a similar charitable organization from property tax.

Introduced 3/24/09; to Tax Policy. (Kurtz)

HB 4728 – MBT REPEAL

Repeals the Michigan Business Tax (MBT).

Introduced 3/31/09; to Tax Policy. (Amash)

HB 4750 – MBT REPEAL

Repeals the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) surcharge.

Introduced 4/1/09; to Tax Policy. (Calley)

HB 4805 – NEW BUSINESS HEALTH BENEFITS

Provides an income tax credit for new businesses for premiums paid for health benefit plans.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Tax Policy. (Miller)

HB 4824 – LOW-INCOME EXEMPTION

Exempts homestead property that is purchased by a person whose income is less than 300 percent of the poverty level, and who is moving from another homestead in the same county, from the Proposal A taxable value "pop-up."

Introduced 4/22/09; to Tax Policy. (Meltzer)

HB 4825 – CAR TAX HOLIDAY

Exempts sales taxes on new vehicle purchases for 2009 and 2010.

Introduced 4/22/09; to Tax Policy. (Meltzer)

HB 4812 – MBT SALES TAX

Accelerates the elimination of the sales taxes in the calculation in the Michigan Business Tax of gross receipts.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Tax Policy. (Opsommer)

HB 4827 – DRUG BENEFIT TAX BREAK

Provides a Michigan Business Tax exemption for amounts charged by a pharmacy benefits manager.

Introduced 4/23/09; to Tax Policy. (Hildenbrand)

HB 4864 – INSURANCE CHARITY

Includes 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in a provision that authorizes a Michigan Business Tax credit equal to 50 percent of a firm's contributions to charitable organizations, and allows these credits for contributions from insurance companies.

Introduced 4/29/09; to Tax Policy. (Byrum)

HJR R – GRADUATED INCOME TAX

Amends the State Constitution to permit the state, but not local governments, to adopt a graduated income tax.

Introduced 4/21/09; to Tax Policy. (Miller)

Miscellaneous

SB 215 – SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMISSION NAME

Changes the name of the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs to the "Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan," and requires the commission to assist with the planning and implementation of a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, a Cinco de Mayo celebration, and a Cesar Chavez Day celebration in addition to its current duties.

Introduced 2/11/09; to Local, Urban & State Affairs. (Garcia)

HB 4500 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Establishes English as the official state language.

Introduced 3/3/09; to Judiciary. (Kurtz)

HB 4585-4593 – PREDATORY LENDING

A package of bills that renames the Consumer Mortgage Protection Act as the Home Loan Protection Act and adds protections regarding high-cost home loans.

Introduced 3/17/09; to Banking & Financial Services. (Melton, et. al.)

HB 4612 – OPEN MEETINGS

Increases the penalties for violating the Open Meetings Act.

Introduced 3/18/09; to Government Operations. (Lund)

Copies of Legislative Bills

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

APPOINTMENTS

QUALITY COMMUNITY CARE COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board is charged with promoting and coordinating effective and efficient personal assistance services, including the objective of creating and maintaining one or more registries of providers in designated Michigan communities.

Appointed to represent consumers were **Verna H. Spayth**, **Ann Arbor, for a term expiring 6/17/11; and Jacqueline S. Day**, **Lansing, and Tammy S. Finn**, Grand Rapids, for terms expiring 6/17/12. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION BOARD OF MAGISTRATES

The Board functions within the Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth. Magistrates are responsible for conducting hearings in disputes that arise under the Worker's Disability Compensation Act of 1969 and hear cases related to worker's compensation claims.

Appointed to represent lawyers for terms expiring 1/26/13 were **David M. Kurtz, Jr.**, Bloomfield Hills, and **Michael J. Mason**, Rochester Hills. The appointments stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Michigan Senate within 60 days.

BOARD OF NURSING

The Board is responsible for the interpretation of licensure and examination of registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses, and for the certification of nursing specialists. The Board sets minimum standards of practice, assesses penalties for when those standards are not met, and recommends licensure to schools that provide nursing programs.

Teresa L. Thompson, Ph.D., R.N., Farmington Hills, was appointed to represent registered professional nurses with master's degrees engaged in nursing education in a baccalaureate or higher program for a term expiring 6/30/11. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

The Council represents the interests of people with disabilities across Michigan. It collaborates with the Michigan Commission for the Blind and Michigan Rehabilitation Services to develop and submit the State Plan for Independent Living.

Appointed for terms expiring 12/31/11 were **Sheila R. Ashcraft**, Pontiac, to represent advocates of, and for, individuals with disabilities; **Brenda H. Keillor**, Midland, to represent parents or guardians of individuals with disabilities; and **Constance L. Kiggins**, Mears, to represent persons with disabilities. The appointments are not subject to disapproval by the Michigan Senate.

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

The Board is responsible for the certification and registration of persons engaged in the social work profession.

Merry S. Battles, Kalamazoo, was appointed to represent certified social workers, and **Heather Adams Bell**, Grand Rapids, was appointed to represent the general public. Both terms expire 12/31/12. The appointments stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The Commission, housed within the Department of Civil Rights, focuses on improving quality of life for women in the state by studying and reviewing the status of Michigan women, directing attention to critical issues that women face, recommending methods to overcome discrimination, promoting methods for women to develop their skills, conducting surveys and establishing advisory committees on vital issues, and recognizing the accomplishments of women in Michigan.

Thomas Wilson, Wyandotte, was appointed for a term expiring 7/15/11. The appointment stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

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