



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

Contact: [Sara Wurfel](#) or [Dave Murray](#)
517-335-6397

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Snyder signs bills increasing government efficiency, providing better oversight

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed legislation to increase government efficiency and provide meaningful oversight.

“This legislation enacts useful reforms that will streamline government procedures and eliminate confusing or unnecessary regulations,” Snyder said. “There was a strong bipartisan effort on nearly all of these initiatives to better meet the needs of our citizens and continue moving Michigan in a positive direction.”

Snyder signed nine bills to foster government efficiency:

House Bill 4125, sponsored by state Rep. Al Pscholka dissolves the Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board. The board was established to allow Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University to bid on the location of the state’s first school of osteopathic medicine. Michigan State was awarded the school and the board no longer serves a purpose. It is now Public Act 260 of 2013.

HB 4622, also sponsored Pscholka, allows for the revision of drainage districts to more accurately reflect changing drainage patterns. It also creates more transparency when district boundaries are revised. It is now PA 261.

HB 4793, another bill sponsored by Pscholka, updates the language of the drain code to repeal eminent domain property provisions. It is now PA 262.

HB 4821, sponsored by state Rep. Marilyn Lane expands the definition of a “motor bus” to allow for more thorough safety inspections on for-hire and commercial bus vehicles. The bill requires proper safety documentation be provided at the request of law enforcement officials when investigating injury related incidents. It is now PA 263.

HB 4996, sponsored by state Rep. Nancy Jenkins provides consumer protection to companies with minimal financing options. The legislation also allows smaller companies to offer small amounts of stock to investors through the practice known as “crowdfunding,” a collective effort between a company and the public usually conducted via the Internet. It is now PA 264.

Senate Bill 308, sponsored by state Sen. Rick Jones simplifies the obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act to allow property tax abatements in specialty cases where the rehabilitation of a building or area began prior to the creation of the rehabilitation district. It is now PA 265.

SB 367, sponsored by state Sen. Jack Brandenburg increases tax filing efficiency for large business firms by expanding the Corporate Income Tax definition of unitary business groups to include affiliated groups. It is now PA 266.

SB 373, sponsored by state Sen. Goeff Hansen allows the Michigan Board of Pharmacy to approve innovative pilot projects which were previously unable to be implemented. Each pilot project will exist for a specified period of time. It is now PA 267.

SB 660, sponsored by state Sen. Roger Kahn enables the sale of pharmaceutical-grade cannabis to individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. The bill is contingent on the passing of a similar law at the federal level. It is now PA 268.

Snyder also signed five bills regarding the public employee health insurance law. As part of the 80/20 health plan, public employers in Michigan are restricted on the amount they may spend on health coverage for employees. This package of bills clarifies the insurance law and includes the following:

- SB 541, sponsored by state Sen. David Robertson redefines “medical benefit plan costs” to include the twelve-month period following the effective date of any self-insured coverage plan an employer provides to its employees or public officials.
- SB 542, sponsored by state Sen. Bruce Caswell requires elected officials be counted as employees and raises the current insurance cap on individual-and-spouse coverage from \$11,000 to \$12,500.
- SB 543, sponsored by state Sen. Mike Nofs allows public employers other than the state to choose the 80/20 coverage option by majority vote.
- SB 544, sponsored by state Sen. Tom Casperson clarifies Sept. 11, 2011, as the effective date of the insurance act.
- SB 545, sponsored by state Sen. Mark Jansen requires a two-thirds majority vote to exempt any local government unit from the act.

The bills are now Public Acts 269, 270, 271, 272 and 273, respectively.

Visit legislature.michigan.gov for more information.

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