

## Extra SABby Week of November 2, 2009

### Topic: Executive Order 2009-51



Dear SABby,

What does this Executive Order mean to assessors, local units and taxpayers and what is going to happen to you?

Sincerely,  
Xavier O. Combinus

Dear Mr. Combinus:

SABby is a bit sad but sees this Executive Order as a great opportunity. SABby plans to move to Florida in the winter but will return to Michigan each summer to do some reappraisal work and possibly take up farming. You will be left in the very capable hands of SABby's sister STaCy who will continue the family tradition, but probably not so frequently – she is one busy gal. Regarding the Executive Order, it will:

- Provide for more efficient administration of property tax programs: There will now be a single point of entry for taxpayers, local units and assessors to contact with questions or concerns related to assessment administration.
- Provide for more involvement from our outside partners and interest groups: The New State Tax Commission will be using more work groups and committees to advise the Commission and to do work. These work groups and committees will be staffed with members from our outside partner organizations and interest groups including MTA, MAED, MAA, MML and MAC. This will allow for more inclusion and moving forward in a positive direction to address important assessing administration issues.
- Eliminate discipline redundancy: Currently taxpayers can file a complaint against an assessing officer with the Commission and then a request to revoke the assessing officer's certification with the Old SAB. In either case, they may be filing with the wrong entity which can be frustrating for the taxpayer and unsettling to the assessing officer. This combination will allow for a single entry point to file a complaint against assessment administration practices and ensure that the complaint will be properly addressed.
- Increase Transparency in Government: The New State Tax Commission will operate in a more open environment allow more access and involvement than existed under the former structure.
- Provide for a more uniform and equitable review of issues: The current structure and process does not provide for a cohesive decision making process that operates with established guidelines to ensure that similar issues are decided in the same way and with the same outcome. The New State Tax Commission will ensure that guidelines are adopted and that cohesive decision making is first and foremost.
- Provide for a single entity to deal with educational issues related to assessors including tailoring educational programs to meet deficiencies noted in local unit program reviews.

Sincerely,  
SABby