



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
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Urban Cooperation Act Bills Pave Way to More Service Sharing by Communities

LANSING, Mich. — Legislation approved Thursday ensures a more efficient and effective process for Michigan communities to share services. Sharing of services is something the Michigan Municipal League has encouraged for years and these changes to the Urban Cooperation Act and corresponding statutes would remove the main obstacles communities have faced.

The state House on Thursday concurred HBs [4309](#), [4311](#) and [4312](#) and they now head to Governor Rick Snyder for approval. In addition to being supported by the League, these bills had support from the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union, the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

“The Michigan Legislature has delivered a major victory to taxpayers and local government officials who now have better tools to use when combining and sharing services,” said Samantha Harkins, legislative associate of state affairs for the Michigan Municipal League.

In particular, the bills remove language to the Urban Cooperation Act and related statutes that stated that no employee may be harmed, Harkins said. The result of this language was that employees would, or could, be bumped up to the highest levels of wages and benefits in negotiations. This language, which actually discouraged communities from sharing services, has now been stricken from the Acts. In addition, language that stated every employee must be transferred, potentially resulting in transfer of employees not necessary to a new authority, was also stricken, Harkins said.

“The final version of the bills passed Thursday was a compromise between the League and the public safety unions,” said League CEO and Executive Director Dan Gilmartin. “It’s truly symbolic and energizing that legislation about cooperating and sharing of services became reality

because the people representing the various sides to the issue sat down and worked out a plan they could all agree with.”

For more information contact Matt Bach at the Michigan Municipal League at mbach@mml.org or (734) 669-6317.

About the MML

The Michigan Municipal League advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services. For more information, visit www.mml.org.

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