



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Improved Emergency Management Bill Should Help Michigan Communities Facing Financial Hardship

“Bitter Sweet” Bill More Important as Governor, Legislature Consider Eliminating Statutory Revenue Sharing

The following statements are from Michigan Municipal League (MML) officials regarding the passage in the state House and Senate of emergency financial management legislation. Over the past few weeks, MML worked with lawmakers to make important improvements to the legislation.

“We’re hopeful this bill as currently written will allow Michigan communities to avoid receivership and help them reach a better path toward fiscal solvency,” said MML President and Alpena Mayor Carol Shafto.

Dan Gilmartin, MML CEO and executive director, said it’s “tragically ironic” the bill has passed at a time when the Legislature and Governor are considering revenue sharing cuts that will push more local governments toward fiscal insolvency. “For years, the MML has sought additional tools to help local communities take steps to avoid receivership. Now that the Governor and Legislature are considering eliminating all of the statutory revenue sharing that has been promised to local governments, passage of this legislation is bitter sweet at best. If the Governor and Legislature are going to push some local governments over the cliff, at least the tools in this bill might possibly save some others.”

No community likes the idea of having an EFM in their city, but having the tools to deal with a financial emergency is necessary. The League worked with lawmakers on the bill after it was introduced and is pleased with several changes made to the initial version. Changes included removal of a 10-year ban from office for local officials that are in office at the time of receivership and the removal of the ability of a firm to be an emergency manager, among many others, said Summer Minnick, MML director of state affairs.

“While not perfect, this bill is now better than it was at introduction,” Minnick said. “Many of the concerns and objections we had to the initial proposal were addressed in the legislative process.”

[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.

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