



michigan municipal league

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2011

PA 312 Reforms Mark Victory for Taxpayers, Will Keep More Police Officers & Firefighters on the Job

LANSING, Mich. – In a huge victory for Michigan taxpayers, the state Senate and House Thursday gave final legislative approval to Public Act 312 reforms that will help local governments maximize public safety resources without jeopardizing collective bargaining rights for police and firefighters.

“By making true reforms to PA 312, the Michigan Legislature has delivered a major victory to taxpayers and to local government officials who now have common sense tools to better manage their budgets,” said Samantha Harkins, legislative associate of state affairs for the Michigan Municipal League. “These critical reforms preserve collective bargaining rights for public safety workers and give local governments the authority to negotiate labor agreements based on ability to pay. It’s a common sense reform that will keep more police officers and firefighters on the job at a time when Lansing continues to reduce revenue sharing and other funding for essential local services.”

Gov. Rick Snyder recently asked the League for reform ideas that would help local communities reduce costs and improve public services. Amending PA 312—the law requiring binding arbitration when a contract impasse is reached between a local unit of government and a public safety union—is vital to making that goal a reality, the League advised Snyder.

Under these reforms, PA 312 defines a community’s ability to pay as the number one priority arbitrators must consider when negotiating public safety labor contracts. It means communities will not get stuck with a contract they can’t afford. The bill will also limit the arbitration process to six months and requires arbitrators to receive training about the new rules.

“This bill adds fiscal sanity to the arbitration process and is a common sense reform to assist local governments in becoming as efficient as possible,” said Dan Gilmartin, Executive Director & CEO of the League.

Summer Minnick, director of state affairs for the League added, “The League has been trying to change PA 312 since it was enacted in 1969, and the years of hard work have resulted in something positive for

all Michigan communities. This is a great example of the state Legislature partnering with local governments for better overall government.”

[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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