

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SPRING 2016

DEAR FRIENDS,

Spring is officially here! While my colleagues and I continue to work on the 2016-17 state budget, here is an update on some of the legislative initiatives we are working on in Lansing.

As your State Senator, I have worked hard to bring common sense reforms and solutions to the Grand Rapids area and our state as a whole. While this update provides a glimpse at what we're working on in Lansing, please feel free to contact my office with any feedback regarding our efforts. Your input helps me better understand the issues that are important to you as we continue to build a better, stronger Michigan.

It is an honor to represent you in the Michigan Senate. As always, should you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dave Hildenbrand

STATE SENATOR

**DAVE
HILDENBRAND**



SENATE DISTRICT 29

TOLL FREE 866.305.2129



E-MAIL sendhildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov

VISIT www.SenatorDaveHildenbrand.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SPRING 2016

GOVERNOR SNYDER'S 2017 STATE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS



Limits Growth of State Government
to 0.8 percent, well below rate of inflation

Prioritizes Education Funding

\$12.1 Billion for School Aid Fund

\$1.4 Billion more than 2011

\$243 Million for At-Risk
Preschool Programs

\$1 Billion for Teacher
Retirement Fund

\$61.2 Million Increase for
Higher Education



Promotes Public Safety

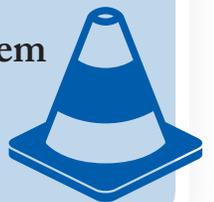


\$9.5 million to hire 85 new
Michigan State Police Troopers

Adds Money for Roads

Increase of **\$533 million** for
Michigan's transportation system

\$165 million for the new
Michigan Infrastructure Fund



Supports Children and Families Affected by the Flint Water Crisis

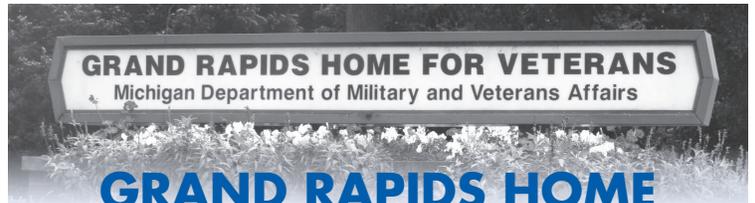
\$165 million for safe drinking water, food and nutrition assistance,
water bill relief, health screenings and treatment

The Legislature will review the governor's plan, add our own priorities
and deliver a final budget that best serves the people of Michigan.



DATA CENTER UPDATE

Construction is well under way at the former Steelcase “Pyramid” building in Gaines Township. Legislation passed late last year and signed by the Governor helped secure one of the world’s largest data centers in West Michigan. The Nevada-based company “Switch” is bringing huge capital investments and jobs to our state in the months and years to come. We look forward to this unique structure being a vibrant part of the greater Grand Rapids economy once again.



GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS

A recent state audit exposed some serious shortcomings with the management and staff at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. I was shocked by these findings and immediately met with the leadership at the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs who manages and oversees the Home. A transformation plan at the Home is being executed, with new leadership, to ensure our veterans receive the highest quality of care, without exception! I will continue to closely monitor the progress of this transformation plan.



FLINT WATER CRISIS

The Michigan Legislature continues to support the ongoing water crisis in Flint. In the last three months, 3 emergency funding bills for Flint have passed into law, totaling over \$67 million dollars. In addition to this, the Governor has recommended an additional \$165 million for Flint residents which is currently being reviewed in the Legislature. For up to date information on the situation in Flint, as well as ways you can help, please visit www.helpforflint.com.

FREE PUBLICATIONS

My office provides free informational publications on a number of topics. Below is a list of some of the more requested publications. For a full list, visit legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?Publications. Please contact my office if you are interested in receiving any of these booklets!

- **MICHIGAN CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO STATE GOVERNMENT**
Provides constituents with contact information, photo and committee assignments on their State Senator and State Representative.
- **STUDENT'S GUIDE TO STATE GOVERNMENT**
Contains classroom exercises, mock session instructions and interesting legislative facts.
- **CHANGES AND CHOICES**
Highlights senior legal issues pertaining to disability and consent, , tax benefits, pension rights, consumer protection, , Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and more.
- **FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE**
Describes legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government and functions of county, city, township, and village entities of local government.
- **LANDLORD/TENANT - A PRACTICAL GUIDE**
Includes sample leases, court forms, checklists and letters for repairs.
- **MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION**
Text of the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963 with amendments.
- **PEACE OF MIND**
Contains information about creating a will, advance directives, Michigan Peace of Mind Registry, organ donation and Durable Power of Attorney.
- **SERVICES FOR SENIORS**
Describes federal, state, and local programs and services available to older Americans, including Medicare, Medicaid, elder care and abuse, assisted living and long-term care options, tax credits, etc.
- **VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES**
Explains how to obtain veteran benefits and services from federal, state, and local agencies. Includes mortgage, education, employment, and insurance information.



MOTORIST PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Driving under the influence of a controlled substance is just as dangerous as drunk driving. That is why the Michigan Senate recently passed legislation to crack down on drugged drivers.

Senate Bills 207 and 434 would create a pilot program in five counties to allow law enforcement officers certified as drug recognition experts to conduct roadside testing of the use of controlled substances. Drivers who are stopped under reasonable cause would have their saliva tested for the presence of cannabis, opiates, cocaine and methamphetamine. The procedure is similar to that of a breathalyzer test for alcohol.

The legislation, prompted by a tragic accident caused by a drugged driver, has been sent to the House for consideration. To track the progress of this, or any state legislation, visit the Michigan Legislature Website at www.legislature.mi.gov.