County Correction Binding Arbitration Up for Hearing on Wednesday

On Wednesday, May 26 at noon, there is another hearing on an important piece of legislation that would affect Michigan counties. In the House Committee on Labor, House Bill 6154 focuses on expanding binding arbitration and guaranteeing it to county correction officers. MAC opposes this bill because of the economic burden it would place on counties.

For years, MAC has worked to reform binding arbitration in Michigan and this legislation would expand and take us in the opposite direction. Unfortunately, binding arbitration is in need of reform in Michigan but this is not the correct solution. MAC recognizes that county corrections officers hold one of the toughest jobs in Michigan that protects the public’s safety and that they deserve sound and strong compensation. However, the process embodied in this legislation would only place an additional unfunded mandate on counties.

HB 6154 could result in unsustainable financial requirements on counties which would be exacerbated by new GASB accounting requirements and reduced property tax revenues. Further, reductions in other state funding for counties, such as revenue sharing, only adds to the problem. Ironically, while this legislation would help one class of county officers, it could result in the layoff of other public safety employees.

On Wednesday, MAC will be testifying against this legislation and we encourage county commissioners to attend. There will not be a vote at this hearing but likely at a future hearing. This is your opportunity to give testimony on this issue and we cannot guarantee if there will be another future opportunity to do so. Please let us know if you would like to join us on Wednesday, May 26 at noon in room 327 HOB in opposition of HB 6154.

Please contact your House member and members of the committee and let them know that this legislation would hurt Michigan counties!

Committee Members:
- Steven Lindberg (D), Committee Chair, 109th District, (517) 373-0498
- Deb Kennedy (D), Majority Vice-Chair, 23rd District, (517) 373-0855
- Andrew J. Kandrevas (D), 13th District, (517) 373-0845
- Lesia Liss (D), 28th District, (517) 373-2275
- Bettie Cook Scott (D), 3rd District, (517) 373-1776
- Jim Slezak (D), 50th District, (517) 373-3906
- Coleman A. Young II (D), 4th District, (517) 373-1008
- Justin Amash (R), Minority Vice-Chair, 72nd District, (517) 373-0840
- Kevin Daley (R), 82nd District, (517) 373-1800
- Joseph Haveman (R), 90th District, (517) 373-0830
- Tom McMillin (R), 45th District, (517) 373-1773
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