

Michigan Fire Services Coalition Update

7-14-09

SB 264 – Fire Safe Cigarettes was signed into law on 6/25/09 and given Public Act #56’09. It was given immediate effect as of 7/14/09. We are working closely with Senator Hunter and the Governors’ Office on Legislative Affairs to schedule a ceremonial bill signing with Governor Granholm.

Residential Sprinkler Hearing – The Coalition will be distributing information to the legislators to preempt any misinformation from the opponents of the issue. We want to ensure they have the most accurate information available. We will be contacting the Governors office to discuss the issue as well.

On July 1, 2009, members of the Fire Coalition met with Senator Kahn to discuss his training bill. He was going to have a new draft written and provided to us for our review.

We will be hosting a Lobby Day/Day at the Capitol on Oct. 7th during Fire Prevention Week. This will be our opportunity to showcase all of the fire service organizations and also talk about our issues. Planning needs to begin for the day. We will have a resolution talking about Fire Prevention Week.

Budget: Unfortunately, this issue is like a broken record. We are close to \$2 billion in deficit with that number climbing each month as revenues continue to nose dive. Revenue Sharing is under attack and will likely be cut by double digit numbers. The senate proposed a 12% reduction and the House proposed a slightly higher cut than that. The budget debate is long from over with legislative leadership just beginning their meetings on target agreements. Targets are the numbers that each department must meet to ensure that the state reaches a balanced budget. This year has been extremely difficult to set the targets because of our continued decline in revenues. Rumor has it that government shutdown is imminent. We will be monitoring this situation very closely.

HB 4026 – Bureau of Fire Services Funding. The House incorporated our fee structure into the DELEG budget bill. This is a great start but we would need to have our legislation passed to ensure long term stability. When language is inserted in a budget it is only good for that budget year. Once the new budget process begins that boilerplate language must be reinserted if we want to continue the process.

HB 4473 – Cancer Presumption. We are working closely with members of the Senate to bring this bill to a vote. Currently, we have no timeline for doing so.

HB 5154 – Tax credit for installing photoelectric or ionized smoke detectors. Bill was introduced as of today. We need to review the legislation and also talk to the bill sponsor about amending to include residential sprinklers.