



**A LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FROM THE ACEC/M POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

March 2010

# Architects & Engineers successful in passage of ARE Timing Bill

The ARE timing bill (HB 4793) unanimously passed the Senate on November 4, 2009 and was signed by Governor Granholm on November 10, 2009 to become Public Act 143. This bill is important to our partners, AIA Michigan, and will allow individuals with a degree in architecture to sit for the licensing exam prior to obtaining 8 years of experience (education included in the 8 years). They will still need to meet experience requirements and obtain references before being able to practice as a licensed architect. Passage of a bill in 7 months in Lansing has to be a record!

### SENATE BILL 862

After nearly passing this legislation in the last session, ACEC/Michigan quickly garnered support to reintroduce our Statute of Limitations bill in the new session.

After our first bill became stalled in the Senate, a new single-section bill was drafted, Senate Bill 882, and was introduced on September 30 by Senator Alan Sanborn. SB 882 seeks to correct a Michigan Supreme Court decision and return the statute of limitations for malpractice claims against professional engineers, surveyors and architects from six years to two years.



After being voted out the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 27, the bill made it to the Senate floor and on December 1, 2009, was passed by the full Senate with 36 YES votes (2 Senators were not present).

The bill now heads to the House Judiciary Committee chaired by Representative Mark Meadows (D-East Lansing). ACEC has met with Representative Meadows to explain the bill and gain his support. ACEC is also trying to find a compromise with the Michigan Association for Justice, formerly known as the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, who have actively opposed the bill.

## “Green Team” helping to educate lawmakers

**Mike Cooper, PE from Harley Ellis Devereaux and a member of the ACEC Board of Directors along with John Condie, PE from FTCH and President of MSPE testify before the House Urban Policy Committee.**



The Architects and Engineers have formed a ‘Green Team’ designed to help legislators understand design sustainability and green building concepts. The team has testified before the House Energy & Technology Committee and most recently the House Urban Policy Committee. On March 2, members of the team were invited to meet with Senator Jason Allen to provide input on Senate Bills 1111-1114 introduced to provide tax incentives for facilities that embrace green concepts.

### HOUSE BILL 4575

Ron Brenke, PE, ACEC/M Executive Director, testified on March 3 in opposition to HB 4575 before the House Regulatory Committee along with AIA/Michigan. The bill seeks to allow local units of government to adopt their own construction code consisting of National Green Building Code Standard, ICC-7000 or the current version of the LEED Green Building Rating System. ACEC/M supports a single, uniform state construction code related to green building standards, not various codes that differ per local units of government.

## TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Despite strong recommendations put forth by the bi-partisan, Governor-appointed Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) in November 2008, the legislature has been very slow to introduce bills to support the preservation and repair of our transportation infrastructure. It wasn't until May 2009 before House Bill 4961 was introduced which will allow the state to lever-



age private funds for transportation projects through a Public Private Partnership (P3). Hearings have been held on the bill and experts from the FHWA and capital investment companies have testified in support of the legislation. However, the bill remains stuck in the House Transportation Committee.

In May, the American Society of Civil Engineers-Michigan Section released a Michigan Infrastructure Report Card gaining great attention by the media and legis-

lature.

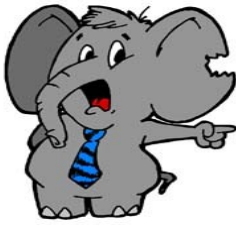
### HB's 5768-5770

Just last month Representative Richard Ball and Representative Pam Byrnes introduced legislation to increase the gasoline and diesel fuel taxes to generate revenue for transportation projects (HB 5768-5770).

ACEC applauds the leadership shown by these legislators in recognizing the problem. **PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE** →

# Major Turnover in House & Senate

In November 2010 Michigan residents will be electing at least 30 new State Senators (out of 38) and over 40 new State Representatives. Term



limits are requiring legislators to exit office, which some feel is way too soon. Many lawmakers have voiced frustration that they have finally built trust and relationships only to be term limited. Members are allowed to serve three, 2-year terms in the House of Representatives and two, 4-year terms in the State Senate. The Democrats currently have the



majority in the House (67 Democrats - 43 Republicans) while the Senate majority is held by the Republicans (22 Republicans - 16 Democrats). In 2010, Michigan residents will also be electing a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General (all 4-year terms).

With so many new faces in the legislature, ACEC/M has the challenge of educating the freshman lawmakers on who we are, what we do and how we contribute to the State of Michigan.

## State & National Legislative Days

Legislators give credence to those who make a personal visit to meet with them. Legislative Days help educate lawmakers on our issues and help them make informed decisions on legislation affecting ACEC/M.

### 2010 Michigan Legislative Day

When: March 17, 2010

Where: State Capitol, Lansing

### 2010 National Convention & Legislative Summit

When: April 25-28, 2010

Where: The Grand Hyatt Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

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lems the state is facing and introducing legislation to help fix the problem. The

Michigan Department of Transportation stands to lose over \$450 million in Federal Aid because they are currently unable to come up with the state matching dollars as early as Fiscal Year 2011.

## ACEC/M PETITION DRIVE

On February 4 at the ACEC-MDOT Partnering Conference, the Council launched a transportation funding petition drive. ACEC is gathering signatures of support for increased investment in Michigan's transportation infrastructure to share with Michigan Legislators. Several members of Michigan's Transportation Team (MTT), a coalition of businesses, labor and associations, have joined the effort including the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, the County Road Association of Michigan, the

Operating Engineers International Union, and several others. The petition has been posted and can be signed on-line at <http://www.gopetition.com/online/33792.html>.

## MONITORING CLOSELY

ACEC/Michigan continues to monitor legislation that is harmful and beneficial to private engineering firms. Members should feel confident knowing that they have someone looking out for their interests and advocating for their businesses and profession.

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