



CHECK IN at the Capital

Pure Michigan Funding Restored - Northern Michigan Lawmakers Fight for Pure Michigan

- CHECK IN MICHIGAN successfully moved the House to restore \$2.5 million to Pure Michigan's current \$35million funding level (HB 5578)
- Senate Appropriations passed a \$1 million increase to Pure MI funding (SB 855)
- If both bills pass their respective chambers, this will be negotiated in Conference Committee
- Thanks to Reps. Larry Inman, Sue Allor, Lee Chatfield and Sen. Jim Stamas for their instrumental leadership on this issue!

Thank you to everyone who made time to contact your State Representative and State Senator!

Our combined voices were heard and the **Michigan House voted to restore the \$2.5 million, bringing funding for Pure Michigan** back to the current level of **\$35 million** for FY 2019.

CHECK IN MICHIGAN would like to offer special thanks to Rep. Larry Inman (R- Traverse City) for offering the amendment and advocating for restored funding with House Republican leadership. Restoration of the current funding level **would not have happened without the efforts of Reps. Larry Inman** (R-Traverse City), **Lee Chatfield** (R- Pellston) and **Sue Allor** (R- Wolverine)!

The restoration of \$2.5 Million to Pure Michigan was one of only three floor amendments that made it into the final House Budget for a total of only \$7 million. [HB 5578](#) is now before the Senate for consideration.

On the other side of the Capitol, the **Senate Appropriations Committee passed SB 855**, that **included a \$1 million increase to Pure Michigan funding** offered by **Sen. Jim Stamas** (R-Midland). This would raise funding for FY 2019 to \$36 Million.

The Senate is expected to vote on their budgets this week. If SB 855 is passed with an increase in Pure Michigan funding, the chambers would negotiate this during Conference Committee.

Please make sure to **thank these legislative champions for their support of Pure Michigan** and the tourism dollars the program brings to Michigan's hotels and tourism businesses.

Stay tuned for future action alerts on this issue as the budget progresses!



Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave Ballot Proposals

- **Support for ballot proposals to raise the minimum wage to \$12 and require employers to offer paid sick leave are gaining traction.**
- **If passed, these proposals would be the most restrictive in the nation – and detrimental to Michigan's tourism economy!**
- **The best way to defeat these well-funded proposals is to keep them off the ballot!**
- **Read the ballot language carefully when approached by ballot circulators!**

Supporters of ballot proposals, to increase Michigan's minimum wage to \$12 by 2022 and require employers to offer paid sick leave, are busy raising money and gathering signatures to get their issues on the ballot.

The **proposals being considered** would be the **most restrictive of any enacted in the nation** and are **detrimental to Michigan's tourism economy!**

Recently filed campaign finance reports show that Michigan One Fair Wage has collected \$400,000 since February 11, all from ROC United in New York, a group which promotes minimum wage increases across the nation, especially for tipped employees.

The campaign has collected \$1.12 million and spent more than half that in the last two months alone to pay a California firm to collect petition signatures.

MI Time to Care has also been gathering signatures for the Paid Sick Time proposal. Over the last two months \$800,000 of the \$900,000 collected came from Sixteen Thirty Fund in Washington D.C. and the other \$100,000 was contributed by the Fairness Project. Approximately \$666,000 has been spent on gathering petition signatures.

Both ballot proposal initiatives have until May 30, 2018 to gather the required 315,654 valid voter signatures.

These campaigns will be very well funded and difficult to defeat once they are on the ballot. The **best way to defeat these proposals is to keep them off the ballot!**

It is very important to read ballot language circulators offer very carefully, and make sure your employees and others understand why these proposals are harmful to Michigan.



Post-Labor Day School Start

- **Legislation in the state House and Senate aims to terminate the Post Labor Day School Start mandate.**
- **August is Michigan's highest revenue producing month for Michigan's tourism businesses and communities**
- **Losing August vacation days would have a chilling effect on our communities and families who count on the most predictably warm season for vacationing**
- **Make sure your legislators understand how important the late summer tourism season is to your business and your family**

School districts across the state are taking action to establish the start dates for the 2018-2019 school year.

While the tourism industry has benefited from the opportunity for families to vacation during August, waivers have eroded the effectiveness of the original law. **Legislation has been introduced to make these flawed waivers permanent.**

In addition, **legislation is active in both the Michigan House and Senate that would remove the requirement for public schools to start after Labor Day.**

It is possible these bills **could be taken up again before the 2018 election. Even if this does not happen, the law is being eroded by waivers that even some lawmakers have describe as being dolled out like candy from a Pez dispenser.**

Please make sure your State Representative and State Senator understand the importance of the late summer tourism season to your business.

We just saw with Pure Michigan funding restoration that your voice makes a difference!

Why does this law matter to Michigan's hotel and tourism businesses?

Since the full implementation of post Labor Day school start in 2006, **August** has supplanted July as **the top revenue producing month for Michigan's tourism industry**. Room sales for Michigan hotels increased over 40,000 room nights in the first year alone, as Michigan residents seized the opportunity for August vacations.

Losing this post-Labor Day School start would have a chilling effect on the growth of tourism in Michigan.



Short-Term Rental Coalition

- Strong work of STR coalition, led by CHECK IN MICHIGAN, keeps HB 4503 and SB 329 at bay
- We cannot rest on past success – Continue communicating with lawmakers
- Share CHECK IN MICHIGAN's videos on your social media accounts to help us to spread the word that STRs need to play by the rules
- Help us tell the STR stories!

The strong work of the **short-term rental coalition, led by CHECK IN MICHIGAN**, continues to **keep [HB 4503](#) and [SB 329](#) at bay**. These bills would damage neighborhoods; burden local sewer, water, and emergency services; and put renters at risk by usurping local zoning ordinances.

We cannot rest on our past success! We need to **continue communicating with lawmakers** and **build grassroots support** for the campaign.

Please take a moment to visit <https://airbnbwatch.org/in-your-area/michigan-today>.

See CHECK IN MICHIGAN's videos to help Michigan residents and legislators understand the danger posed by these unregulated short-term rentals.

Share these videos on your social media accounts to help us to spread the word that short term rentals need to play by the same rules as other lodging types. Please **don't stop there! Contact your legislators by phone, in district or with the new Phone2Action tool** and make sure they understand the full picture. **We aren't opposed to short term rentals. We just want to make sure that guests are safe, neighborhoods are protected, and everyone pays their fair share!**

Help us tell the stories! We need to hear your stories about why short-term rental regulations are important. Please take a moment to contact the CHECK IN MICHIGAN office today. We are gathering stories for the next stage of the campaign and **your voice is important!**



CHECK IN MICHIGAN - YOUR VOICE IN LANSING

The Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association has a new name and a new look. Together with partners and members throughout the state of Michigan, we journeyed to our new name and brand. We are now known as **CHECK IN MICHIGAN!**

Advancing the Hospitality and Tourism Community in Michigan for 112 years!