



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee
From: Dan Papineau, Director of Tax Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Date: May 13, 2020
Subject: Please Support HB 5766 (Hauck)

This memorandum is to voice the Michigan Chamber's support for House Bill 5766, legislation that will extend the deadline to appeal a taxpayer's property taxes in certain cases.

HB 5766 affects taxpayers filing appeals on commercial and industrial personal property as well as residential property. While the Michigan Chamber supports the extension of time provided residential taxpayers, the focus of this memo will be on extending the appeals deadline for commercial and industrial personal property.

The deadline to appeal commercial and industrial personal property is May 31st. It should come without surprise that under the current condition's taxpayers are finding it difficult and, in some cases, impossible to file an adequate appeal. HB 5766 extends the amount of time an appeal can be filed from May 31st to August 31st to ensure that commercial and industrial taxpayers can fairly appeal their assessments.

Since property taxes are based on subjective valuations, the right to appeal those valuations are fundamental. In today's environment taxpayers from across Michigan have struggled to get assessment notices and properly consult with their tax professionals in order to file a proper appeal. Giving them extra time to adequately defend themselves against what they believe to be an unfair assessment is only fair.

While some may question the hardship taxpayers are facing in filing an appeal by the end of the month, I assure you the problem exists. Even if one taxpayer had a difficult time in fighting an unfair assessment due to actions taken in response to the public health emergency, it is one to many. Pushing back the appeals date by a few months will not increase appeals or effect local government's budgeting plans.

When it comes to property taxes, I cannot stress enough how important it is that we make filing an appeal to an assessment deemed unfair as easy and accessible as possible and frankly, under today's condition's nothing is as easy as it used to be so, please support HB 5766 and give taxpayers a little more time to prepare a proper appeal if it has been found necessary.

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