

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

**RESOLUTION #2018-11
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 6049 AND SB 1025**

WHEREAS, House Bill (HB) 6049 and Senate Bill (SB) 1025 seeks to completely restructure the tax assessing qualifications, process and boundaries of local assessing units in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 will impose a huge financial burden on Alger County as well as Michigan's other counties and local units because its mandates will require increased staffing levels and office space while providing a woefully inadequate 1% administrative fee and undefined "start-up funding" to compensate the counties and other local units for the drastic expenses that will surely accompany the new mandates; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 will put Alger County at odds with its local townships by requiring us to take the 1% administration fee from the local units to pay for our increased costs; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 changes the manner in which local boards of review (BOR) are conducted. By putting specialized BORs at the county level, HB 6049/SB 1025 has the potential to strip elected township supervisors and local assessing units of control over the tax assessing process, depriving them of the ability to account for unique conditions and values unknown to county-wide, regional and/or statewide assessing units but well known in the local units; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 appears to have been designed without any input from existing assessors or their associations and the previous drafts were not made public to the counties and townships directly affected by its sweeping changes until nearly ready for introduction into the Michigan Legislature. In this context, it is difficult to view HB 6049/SB 1025 as anything other than a power grab generating from Lansing; and

WHEREAS, there are no guarantees that quality education will be available locally or even regionally to allow for the increased certification levels imposed by HB 6049/SB 1025; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025's proposed levels of certification for assessors will not achieve the results that are being sought. The real problem is bad assessors, not their levels of certification. The solution lies in better policing of assessors by the State Tax Commission, not simply imposing increased educational requirements that may be impossible to achieve and that do nothing to weed out the bad actors; and

WHEREAS, Alger County views HB 6049/SB 1025 in its current form as an unconstitutional unfunded mandate which does little or nothing to accomplish its stated goals.


Alger County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes HB 6049/SB 1025 and asks that it be withdrawn from consideration until the funding issues and other problems identified above can be properly addressed.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Alger County Board of Commissioners at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Froberg

Mary Ann Froberg, Alger County Clerk

Dated: July 16, 2018