

RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED CUT TO COUNTY CONVENTION FACILITY FUNDS

WHEREAS, Counties, unlike other local units of government, are constitutionally and statutorily mandated by the state and federal government to provide a myriad of services, ranging from mandated funding of the state's court activities, mandated funding of human services programs through the child care fund, running jails statewide and several other responsibilities with regards to the county's constitutional offices; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan County Administrative Officers Association demonstrates that those state mandated services are only met with commensurate funding from the state at a level of 55%, constituting a major unfunded mandate upon counties; and

WHEREAS, even with these major unfunded state mandates upon counties, in 2004 counties stepped up to the plate to assist the state with its growing budget deficit by voluntarily forgoing revenue sharing payments for an extended period of time, saving the state *billions* of dollars in expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 2 of 1986 provides for a portion of convention facility/liquor tax revenues received by the State to be distributed to counties; and

WHEREAS, PA 2 requires the amount of convention facility/liquor tax distribution to be used to reduce the base tax rate, unless 50 percent of the revenue is distributed by the county to its designated substance abuse coordinating agency for substance abuse programs; and

WHEREAS, PA 2 dollars help the state partially offset the unfunded mandate placed on counties and reducing that appropriation will serve to widen that gap and reduce critical substance abuse programs, which are designed to curtail crime; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill SB220 included a reduction in the State's appropriation from the Convention Facility Development Fund of \$18.4 million, representing an almost 50% cut to the program; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners are strongly opposed to reductions in PA 2 appropriations to counties, and we urge the Michigan Senate and House to fully restore the funding to meet the state's obligations in providing funds to meet state mandated service requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm, State Senator Jason Allen, State Representative Matthew Gillard and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Moved by Commissioner Altman and supported by Commissioner Lang to adopt the above resolution.

Ayes: Commissioners Schell, Darga, Altman, Lang and Chairman Bruder.

Nays: None. Excused: None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF PRESQUE ISLE

I, Susan M. Rhode, Clerk of the County of Presque Isle, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true copy taken from the proceedings of a regular meeting of the Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners held o May 25, 2007.

Dated: May 25, 2007

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Susan M. Rhode

Presque Isle County Clerk