

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Representative

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90th House District

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Please feel free to share this legislative update. If you'd like to be added to our e-mail list, contact my office toll-free at 866-908-4347, or by e-mail at

DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov

Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to the March edition of my e-newsletter for 2015!

March is Reading Month and I have enjoyed reading to hundreds of students in our area schools this month. We know that early literacy is vital to our children's futures. As the Governor and the legislature work with local schools to improve reading education, you can play an important role by reading to a child today. Instilling a love of reading at a young age will pay dividends as children grow and develop.



I hope you find this email update useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Daniela R. García
State Representative
90th District

House approves end of film tax subsidies

This month I supported a bill to terminate the state's expensive film subsidy tax credits by the end of the current fiscal year. This legislation has been passed by the House and is now being considered by the Senate. By ending the Hollywood tax credits, \$50 million can be used for more worthwhile purposes. Under [House Bill 4122](#), funding for film tax credits will end on Sept. 31 and will not be renewed for the coming fiscal year. Credits that have already been awarded will be honored.

Residents invited to help eliminate, reform criminal laws

People can participate in their state government by submitting ideas to reform outdated criminal laws to a legislative workgroup. With nearly 1,000 sections, Michigan's penal code is eight times larger than the Model Penal Code and substantially larger than other Midwest codes, according to a recent study by the Manhattan Institute for Public Research and Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Lawmakers are focusing on repealing unnecessary and outdated statutes, adjusting disproportionately high criminal penalties and ensuring that penalties are consistent for similar crimes. High school government classes are encouraged to research Michigan laws and participate in the statewide reform as well. Residents can submit their ideas [online](#).

Retired teachers could fill critical instruction shortages again

The Michigan House has approved a measure to eliminate the sunset on a 2012 law and allow retired teachers and school employees to re-enter the work force to fill critical vacancies in Michigan schools. [House Bill 4059](#) eliminates a July 1, 2014 sunset of Public Act 464 of 2012, which gives the state superintendent the ability to determine critical teacher shortages in Michigan school districts and allows the districts to fill those vacancies with qualified personnel. Many of the shortages are in areas requiring specialized training, such as speech pathologists and special education staff. The legislation includes existing safeguards to prevent educators from earning full pay while receiving their retirement pension. HB 4059, which I supported,

now goes to the Senate Committee on Education for consideration.

Angler survey to help DNR develop trout fisheries plan

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is developing a statewide plan for inland trout fisheries and is seeking assistance from anglers through an online [Michigan Inland Trout Angler survey](#) through Tuesday, March 31. People can answer questions regarding how they fish, what their thoughts and opinions are on inland trout management, and other items. Inland trout populations are defined as populations that spend their entire lives in inland lakes and streams, and generally do not migrate into the Great Lakes. The questionnaire should take approximately 10 to 20 minutes to complete.

District office hours

Each month, I will hold office hours in Hudsonville, Zeeland, and Holland. My next meetings take place on Monday, April 6th:

- Hudsonville hours will take place at the Gary Byker Memorial Library (3388 Van Buren Street) at 11am.
- Zeeland hours will take place at the Howard Miller Public Library (14 South Church Street) at 1pm.
- Holland hours will take place at the Herrick District Library (300 South River Avenue) at 3pm.

No appointment is necessary. Residents who are otherwise unable to meet during my scheduled office hours may contact my Lansing office at (517) 373-0830 or by e-mailing me at DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov.

Please stop by and say hello!

Upcoming District Events

- West Coast Chamber [Early Bird Breakfast](#)
Speaker: Lt. Governor Brian Calley
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Location: Haworth Inn 225 College Ave. Holland, MI

- West Coast Chamber [Government Affairs Breakfast](#)
Speakers: Elected State and Federal Legislators
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015
Location: Alpenrose Restaurant 4 E. 8th St. Holland, MI
- [Tulip Time Festival](#)
Dates: May 2-9, 2015
Parades: Volksparade (Wednesday, May 6), Kinderparade (Thursday, May 7), Muziekparade (Saturday, May 9)
Location: Holland, MI

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