



# JULIAN VAIL, LLC NEWS & NOTES



OCTOBER 9, 2009

## 2009 MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

▪

### SENATE

- 10:00 am - Tuesday, October 13
- 10:00 am - Wednesday, October 14
- 10:00 am - Thursday, October 15

### GRANHOLM MERGES DNR, DEQ, DIMINISHES MDA

Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued an executive order, 10-8-09, combining the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) into a new agency -- the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). The Department of Agriculture (MDA) was left out of the combination, even though the administration had considered adding the agency to the mix. As part of Executive Order 2009-45, however, the MDA director will be appointed by the governor, as opposed to the Michigan Agriculture Commission. The change will officially take effect on Jan. 17, 2010.

Michigan Farm Bureau said this plan “further centralizes power within the Executive Office without providing any government efficiency.” The MDA Director would make the ultimate decisions on changes to Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices for Michigan’s Right to Farm Act, while the Agriculture Commission’s role is limited to “simply providing a forum for gathering information.” “Replacing the open style of the Commission with a closed, behind-doors approach denies the people of Michigan the transparency and accountability they deserve,” said Jim Byrum, Chairperson of the Ag Commission.

Further, the transfer of the Office of Racing Commissioner from MDA to the Michigan Gaming Control Board and abolishment of the Racing Commissioner will further cripple Michigan’s already struggling horse racing industry, as horse racing would likely be a low priority of the Gaming Control Board. “Michigan agriculture deserves support now more than ever, not getting our legs taken out from under us,” Byrum said. “This executive order does absolutely nothing to save a single taxpayer dollar and it does nothing to improve efficiency. All it has done is put one of the few positive areas of our economy at risk.”

We at Julian Vail, LLC are working with other agriculture groups to encourage the legislature to reject the Executive Order.

### GAMING SUPPLEMENTAL: INSTANT RACING----

The House Appropriations Committee took testimony on Instant Racing wagering at the horse racing tracks in Michigan. Boilerplate language in the appropriations supplemental would allow for wagering on video taped horse races at licensed pari-mutuel tracks. Advocates of the horse racing industry said they want to be self-supporting, but they need to have more wagering opportunities for residents given what other states offer. Larry Julian, a former state representative representing Michigan Equine Partnership and Michigan Standardbred Breeders Association testified in support of the video wagering estimating the state would get a share of \$140 million projected to be raised with the video wagering.

### DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE CLOSES REGIONAL OFFICES

LANSING – In a move to shave off approximately \$600,000 from its budget, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Don Koivisto today announced the permanent closure of the department’s regional offices located in Detroit, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Saginaw, St. Joseph, and Traverse City and its district office in Marquette. MDA will still continue to have field staff working around the state using their homes as an office base. The main difference is customers no longer have a brick and mortar location to go to for service.

**MDA’s new regional contact information is as follows:** Ph: 800-292-3939

**General mail:** Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, PO Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909

**General email:** mda-info@michigan.gov

**Food and nursery licensing fees:** Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, PO Box 30746, Lansing, MI 48909

**Other money:** Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, PO Box 30776, Lansing, MI 48909

**Online complaint form:** [www.michigan.gov/mdacomplaints](http://www.michigan.gov/mdacomplaints)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MICHIGAN GREAT LAKES  
INTERNATIONAL DRAFT  
HORSE SHOW**  
MSU Pavillion, East Lansing  
October 15 - 18, 2009

**MICHIGAN CONTRACT  
SECURITY ASSOCIATION  
General Membership Mtg.**  
October 21, 2009

**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS**  
- SEIC Fall Conference  
Nov. 6-7, Atlanta, GA

*Always borrow money  
from a pessimist, he  
doesn't expect to be  
paid back.*

*Author Unknown*

Julian Vail, LLC

235 North Pine St. ▪ Lansing, MI 48933 ▪ 517.372.1500 ▪ Fax: 517.372.1501 ▪ [www.julianvail.com](http://www.julianvail.com)