

HB 4177

Rep Tyrone Carter Sponsor

SB 136

Sen. Sylvia Santana Sponsor

1. This legislation is modeled after and seeks to do exactly what we the legislature has done previously for the DIA, and the Detroit Zoo
2. It is "enabling legislation" that authorizes any county to establish a History Museum Authority (in the case of the DIA it was an "Art Institute Authority", and for the Zoo it was a "Zoological Authority")
3. Under this legislation as with the others, IF a County chooses to establish such an authority, the Authority is authorized to seek a millage of up to .4 mills for the two qualified museums (DHS, CHW). Similarly, the Authorities for the DIA and the Zoo are each authorized to seek up to .2 mills as well under their enabling legislation. Amendatory language is also available to provide a taxing county with discretion to award up to 20% of the millage from their county to other history providers within the county.
4. If the voters in the County approve the millage, the Authority is then authorized to contract with a qualified History Services Provider (in this case, CHW and DHS) for services and benefits to the residents of the County approving the tax.
5. The Authority is subject to OMA and FOIA
6. The election can ONLY be held at one of the election dates legally allowed by state law, and within those dates only as determined by the County with its History Services Authority.
7. As was the DIA and the Detroit Zoo, CHW and DHS are publicly owned by the City of Detroit, but provide History Museum services for the entire state and especially in Oakland and Wayne Co, according to membership and visitor data.
8. Oakland and Wayne Co. are the only counties contemplated for this millage – but obviously ONLY if they choose to exercise the authority granted in this.
9. Both Oakland and Wayne Co. elected leadership are "ok" with the legislation -
10. Polling data from Oakland and Wayne Co. is VERY FAVORABLE, with the data indicating close to 70% voter support
11. Unlike the DIA and Zoo, there are no plans and CHW and DHS will NOT be seeking the creation of an Authority or a millage in Macomb Co., or any other county.

12. The Museums are REQUIRED to work with the Authority to offer benefits and services and preferences to the tax paying county/s (in the cases of the DIA and the Zoo, the types of benefits and preferences and services have been Senior Days, School programs, reduced or free memberships, reduced or free admissions, Senior programming, and others as negotiated between the Authority and the Provider)
13. An Annual AUDIT is required to the County and its Authority
14. Polling data has indicated great support for taxpayer support for publicly held entities, but not so great for privately held venues.
15. With the passage of the legislation, this would put a county who chooses us this proposed new law in a position to consider the establishment of an Authority later this year, and consideration of a vote by the people for a millage in 2024.
16. As with the DIA and the Detroit Zoo, and with the loss of much of the previous public funding for these venues, the current revenue structure for these venues is not sustainable (similar to the Public Museum in Grand Rapids and the Zoo there as well).
17. Again, this completes the equal treatment of these regional resources (Detroit Zoo, DIA, CHW, and DHS) which were formerly operated by the City of Detroit.
18. We need to pass this legislation now – in September/October – so that we avoid missing this chance to allow a county to have this as a tool if they choose to use it to save these two Museums (again, just as they did with the Detroit Zoo, and the DIA).