



Feb. 11, 2021

Rep. Steven Johnson
Chair
House Oversight Committee
124 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Johnson and members of the House Oversight Committee,

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) and the Michigan Association of County Clerks (MACC) oppose House Bill 4164, which would require all courts to accept electronic mailed filings. It would also require courts to provide free access for attorneys to all court documents of any case in that court.

As a general principle, MAC and MACC oppose unfunded mandates, which would be created under HB 4164. County general funds are the primary funding source for Michigan courts, and records are overseen by our elected County Clerks. The additional staff time our clerk's offices would encounter to print emailed documents and file them in a digital format would create new burdens, not to mention any software and maintenance costs to create a new, secure online presence. Software and maintenance fees are not cheap for governments to maintain their current systems, so additional state requirements will cause further financial stress on already strained county budgets.

Most importantly, Michigan courts are working through implementation of the MiFile system led by the State Court Administrative Office. MAC and MACC would caution the Legislature against any additional changes while the courts are in the middle of this current technological transition.

MAC and MACC appreciate the intent of this legislation and the greater goal of accessibility to our local courts, and counties are currently striving for digitization and electronic access of records. However, at this time, this legislation may impede the current e-filing rollout happening across the state.

As always, please feel free to contact our association representatives with any questions you may have about our opposition or concerns outlined here.

Sincerely,

Meghann Keit-Corrion
Governmental Affairs Associate
Michigan Association of Counties

Sharon Tyler, Berrien County Clerk
President
Michigan Association of County Clerks

cc: Rep. Ryan Berman