



MBA Advocacy Report

Michigan Bankers Association • 517-485-3600

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State Leaders to Meet on Tax Proposals

Governor Granholm and Republican legislators will meet today to discuss state business taxes. The House passed a package of legislation three weeks ago that would give manufacturers a credit toward their SBT obligations and gradually phase out the SBT by 2010. It would also gradually remove the cost of health care from SBT calculations. Most importantly, it will NOT raise taxes on banks.

The Governor has characterized the House plan as a good “starting point.” Recall that the Governor’s original proposal would have shifted the majority of the SBT burden from manufacturers to the banking and insurance industries, effectively quadrupling the SBT burden of some banks. Her plan appears to be dead, thanks largely to the grassroots efforts of MBA members and staff who testified against the plan at legislative hearings and town meetings all around the state last spring.

HMDA Data Released

The HMDA report is out. On the surface, it does show some correlation between loan pricing and race. Remember, though, that the data does not include credit risk information, such as credit score, credit history, loan-to-value ratios or debt-to-income ratios. The Federal Reserve went to significant lengths to point this out in its explanation of the data. Click [here](#) to see the full report.

Data Breach Action Expected Soon in DC

The House Financial Services released a new combination of the HR 3375 and HR 3374 bills. It is currently a discussion draft. MBA Operations and Technology Committee discussed many of the aspects of data security and data responsibility on September 14 at MBA HQ in Lansing. The protection of a customer’s information and their bank account balances from theft is an important part of today’s emerging economy. Our friends in Lansing and Washington, DC are in a “rush to save e-commerce” by imposing stricter regulations on the handling of digital customer data. MBA staff is prepared. Advocacy would like to thank Chair Eric Cook and the whole Ops/Tech team for sharing their experiences in the field of data security.

New Faces in MBA Advocacy

Jordan Kingdon transferred to the Advocacy team from the administrative side of the MBA. Jordan Kingdon came to the MBA from marketing at the Detroit Pistons. Advocacy welcomes his position of “central coordinator” or “ground command” for those of us on the run representing MBA’s interests.

The Grassroots/ Political Action side of the MBA is being organized by Dan McMaster, newly acquired from the Senate Majority Communications in Lansing. Dan’s 10 years of work for State Representatives and Senators allows him easy access to the capitol and the surrounding personalities. Dan’s responsibilities will be to focus the MBA’s success in communications and management of MBA Grassroots political meetings and local in-district lobbying events, driving MiBankPAC efforts and MBA Group activities, and tracking ABA actions for us at the MBA.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, or if you have any questions about any items mentioned in this report, please contact [John Llewellyn](#) at (517) 342-9058.