

12/6/16
HB 5824 #5825



**MICHIGAN COUNTY
MEDICAL CARE
FACILITIES
COUNCIL**

Our Mission Sets Us Apart

Good Afternoon,

I would like to thank committee chair Brandenburg and members of the committee for taking up this important legislation.

I am Renee Beniak, Executive Director of the Michigan County Medical Care Facilities Council. We are the association that represents Michigan's 35 county owned nursing homes serving all of Michigan's 83 counties. Our mission is to serve those most in need regardless of their ability to pay. We are known nationally for the quality of care provided in Michigan county owned nursing homes.

To continue to best serve our residents and communities, many county long-term medical care facilities are considering or have begun expanding care and services under a model adapted to current times. In some instances this may entail a renovation of the existing building to expand the number of available private rooms with attached private bath, a larger therapy department or to create more homelike living space in designing neighborhoods with smaller dining rooms, creating wider corridors; moving away from a typical medical model design with long corridors and large number of residents in one area.

Under another model, some facilities have begun constructing what the industry refers to as "small houses" that operate under the same license as the existing primary building and on the same campus. The small houses are served by the same nursing staff and must meet certain safety conditions to ensure proper care of the residents as part of the overall function of the CLTMC Facility. These small houses usually serve around 18-24 residents. And in a few instances, due to the age and condition of the building, renovation does not make sense and a new building needs to be constructed, again under the same license and ownership as the original facility.

Depending on nature of the “physical connection”, the “small houses” may be viewed as freestanding buildings and not eligible for the exemption without this new legislation.

In closing, we fully support HB’s 5824 and 5825 as it helps to:

- Achieve the original intention of the 2006 amendment to clarify the exemption for county long-term medical care facilities applies to both (a) new construction and (b) renovations and additions.
- Adapt the exemption to cover the changing model of delivering nursing care in a county medical care facility and best meeting resident and community needs into the future.