

THE JACOBS REPORT
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GRANHOLM TO LEGISLATURE: REPLACE SBT

Governor Wants Replacement Passed in 2006

This year's "lame duck" session of the Legislature promises to be anything but dull.

For starters, Governor Jennifer wants the same lawmakers who did away with the state's main business tax this year to come up with its replacement before they adjourn in December.

The Single Business Tax (SBT) brings in approximately \$1.9 billion annually in revenue.

In wake of the governor's call to action, Republican Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema brought forward his own agenda. "I welcome the governor back to the discussion on the SBT," he said, "but she needs to come to the table with support for teacher health insurance reform so we aren't forced to cut school funding."

Governor Granholm plans to submit a proposal to lawmakers next week. It would reduce the personal property taxes businesses pay in exchange for applying the tax to more businesses. Currently, 60 percent of the 250,000 businesses in Michigan pay nothing in Single Business Tax and 70 percent pay less than \$1,000 a year.

Many in the GOP camp want an overall cut in business taxes. Governor Granholm, on the other hand, has remained consistent in her insistence that any new tax structure must replace all the money now coming in from business taxes. Roughly \$2 billion from the personal property tax goes to schools and local governments.

The governor and House Speaker-elect Andy Dillon are also working on a proposal to expand the state Merit scholarship to \$4,000 for all students who complete two years of higher education with a C+ average. The current Merit scholarship is based on how a student performs on a standardized test.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING BEGINS WITH INFORMED DRIVERS

Web Site and Hotline Provide Current Road Conditions

During Winter Hazards Awareness Week, the Michigan State Police (MSP) is reminding motorists to check the MSP Winter Travel Advisory before heading

out on the roads. The MSP Winter Travel Advisory is available at www.michigan.gov/roadconditions or by calling 1-800-381-8477.

The Winter Travel Advisory provides road conditions for the state's freeways and trunk lines based on reports from public safety personnel working throughout Michigan. These roads are the first to be cleared during winter weather. Road conditions for rural and county roads are not available; however, it is unusual for conditions on these roads to be better than those listed for the area freeways.

The listings are updated at least twice daily with more frequent updates during storms when conditions can change rapidly.

"Our goal is always for motorists to arrive at their destinations safely," said Colonel Peter C. Munoz, director of the MSP. "This can be especially challenging during Michigan's winter season, when snow and ice can create dangerous driving conditions."

The MSP created the Winter Travel Advisory as a way to discourage motorists from calling 911 or their local law enforcement agency for the weather report, which can tie up critical phone lines and hamper emergency communications.

"I encourage the public to check the Winter Travel Advisory and then use your best judgment; if the weather conditions appear too severe for travel, consider delaying your trip or take appropriate safety precautions," stated Munoz. "Keep in mind that driving too fast for road conditions is the number one cause of traffic crashes during winter weather."

WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .

Quotables

"An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day."
-Irv Kupcinet

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."
-Thornton Wilder

Quote of the Week: Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

"If we meet someone who owes us thanks, we right away remember that. But how often do we meet someone to whom we owe thanks without remembering that?"

HAVE A SAFE AND JOYOUS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at
<http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/> .

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at
sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov
or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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