

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

# Clarke Press Release

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## **State Senator Hansen Clarke to Legislature: “Close Budget Gap with Efficient School and Local Spending”**

*Senator Clarke’s legislation will help address the state’s structural budget deficit.*

**LANSING**—State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) introduced legislation today to amend the Michigan State Constitution to give the Auditor General the power to audit school districts and all local governmental units. The Auditor General conducts audits, including performance audits, of state agencies, colleges, and universities. Performance audits help determine whether a government agency is spending its money efficiently and effectively.

Total school district and local government spending is \$16.1 billion this fiscal year. That is 57 percent of the non-federal spending in the state budget. Senator Clarke believes that conducting performance audits of school districts and local governmental units is a way to address the state’s structural budget deficit and could save and better spend perhaps a billion dollars of taxpayer money. Since the legislature funds school districts and local governmental units, the legislature should be able to determine how the money is being spent. Currently, thirty-three states give their state auditor power to audit local school districts.

“It is important to look at ways to save money. The big money in state government actually goes to funding our schools. Efficient school funding can lead to big cost savings in the state budget,” said Senator Clarke.

This resolution has bi-partisan support. Co-sponsors include Senator Basham (D-Taylor), Senator Allen (R-Traverse City), Senator Cropsey (R-DeWitt), and Senator Sanborn (R-Richmond Township).

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