

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

# Schauer Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-2426 • Fax: 517-373-2964  
E-mail: senmschauer@senate.mi.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/schauer



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Contact: Tom Lenard  
Phone: (517) 373-2426

## **Schauer Supports Approval of Legislation to License Mortgage Lenders** *Schauer Supports Approval of Legislation to License Mortgage Lenders*

LANSING-Today the Michigan Senate voted to pass three House bills that are part of an ongoing bipartisan, bicameral effort to bring accountability to the mortgage industry and reduce foreclosures. This legislation would register and regulate mortgage loan officers and protect consumers from unfair lending practices. Last fall, Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) was a co-sponsor of the accompanying Senate bills in the legislative package.

"Our communities and local economies are being devastated by this foreclosure crisis," said Schauer. "A major step in preventing foreclosures is making sure homeowners are not taken advantage of and these bills will help achieve that goal."

Highlights of the package that passed today include bills that would:

- Extend the licensing fee to include loan officer registration;
- Require loan officers to be registered in order to receive compensation for originating a loan;
- Require agents to register to originate loans within 90 days of employment;
- Authorize the Commissioner to deny an application for a registration, bring an action against a loan officer registrant, suspend or revoke a loan officer registration, and censure a loan officer registrant;
- Allow the Attorney General, Commissioner or any other person to file a complaint for violating the Act, allowing the Commissioner to begin an investigation.

A report by California-based RealtyTrac Inc. indicates that Michigan has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the country. Last year nearly 2 percent of all homes in Michigan were in foreclosure with more than 136,000 filings, the third highest rate in the country.

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