



## RESOLUTION 2025-19

### Resolution Supporting Michigan Senate Bills 293 and 294

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bills 293 and 294 would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process that would apply when an animal is seized due to a pending or active court case involving a violation of Michigan law prohibiting animal neglect (MCL 750.50) or cruelty (MCL 750.50b) by the animal's owner; and

**WHEREAS**, the inclusion of an effective bond-or-forfeit process in those statutes, which would require a defendant/owner charged with animal neglect or cruelty to forfeit the animals to the seizing agency or pay for the costs of the animal's care and housing with a bond, would benefit both animals and the people in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the current bond-or-forfeit process applicable in cases of animal neglect or cruelty, creates a burden for seizing agencies such as Chippewa County Animal Control, as the one holding the animal, responsible for housing, food, veterinary care, and other costs as the animal is held for the duration of criminal proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, without an effective process, animals continue to be victims and when they have to remain in a shelter for an extended period of time, it is not only detrimental to the animals, but to the staff and volunteers of the facility also; and

**WHEREAS**, precedent has been set in that the bond-or-forfeit process that is being proposed for MCL 750.50 and MCL 750.50b, is already included in MCL 750.49, Michigan's animal fighting statute; and

**WHEREAS**, Chippewa County Prosecutor Robert Stratton and Animal Shelter Manager Holly Henderson are asking the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners for a resolution of support for the Senate Bills.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** THAT the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners support Senate Bills 293 and 294 that would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process for animals seized due to pending or active court cases involving violations of animal neglect or cruelty by the animal's owner.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, all Michigan counties for their consideration and action and distribute to all County Clerks.

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**Resolution #2025-18**

**Moved: Commissioner Martin**

**Supported: Commissioner Traynor**

**Carried: Justin Knepper, Damon Lieurance, Scott Shackleton, Jim Traynor and Jim Martin**

**Absent: None**

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the County of CHIPPEWA, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 11th day of September 2025, the original of which resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that the meeting was held, and the minutes therefore were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this 11th day of September 2025.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Woodgate, Clerk  
County of Chippewa

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the seventeenth of September 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Sogge, Nelson, Nyman, Bengelink, Bush, Baughan, Potter, & Taylor.

ABSENT: Theobald

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Nyman and supported by Commissioner Bush.

**RESOLUTION NO.25-15  
OPPOSING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES'  
FY26 BUDGET CUTS TO COUNTY REVENUE SHARING**

**WHEREAS**, counties are mandated by the State of Michigan to provide essential public services including courts, jails, elections, public health, public safety and human services; and

**WHEREAS**, unlike cities, villages and townships, counties do not receive constitutionally guaranteed revenue sharing and instead rely solely on statutory revenue sharing, leaving counties uniquely vulnerable to annual state budget decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposes a \$34.9 million reduction in county statutory revenue sharing, wiping out the long-overdue progress made in FY25 to restore revenue sharing to sustainable levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the House plan, if enacted, would leave counties with just over \$256 million in statutory revenue sharing statewide, while constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships (CVTs) is set to reach \$1.1 billion, and when combined with statutory revenue sharing, CVTs would get \$1.4 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the House plan shifts \$40 million into restricted sheriff funding with strings attached, requiring counties to maintain higher law enforcement funding levels, even as flexible revenue sharing is reduced, thereby further straining already-limited general funds; and

**WHEREAS**, public safety dollars directed exclusively to sheriffs are not equivalent to revenue sharing, since they cannot be used to support the wide range of mandated services counties must provide; and

**WHEREAS** the Senate budget proposal provides just over \$320 million in county statutory revenue sharing, an increase of \$29.1 million over FY25, and includes \$60 million for public safety that can be allocated at the discretion of county boards of commissioners rather than bypassing them; and

WHEREAS, the Senate approach respects county governance, strengthens general fund flexibility, and better equips counties to meet their broad statutory responsibilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Wexford County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the Michigan Legislature and governor to reject the House revenue sharing cuts and support the Senate's proposal to increase county revenue sharing and provide flexible funding for public safety needs; and

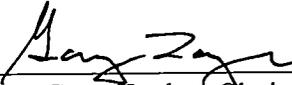
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, House Speaker Matt Hall and Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

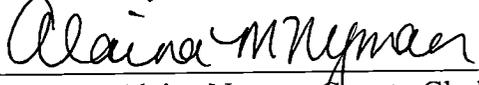
A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Bush, Baughan, Potter, Sogge, Nelson, Nyman, Bengelink, and Taylor.

NAYS: None.

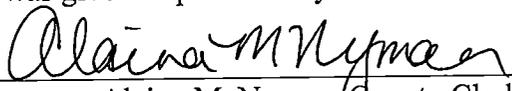
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

  
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Gary Taylor, Chairman, Wexford County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN    )  
                                  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF WEXFORD    )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of Resolution 25-15 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Wexford County at a regular meeting held on September 17, 2025, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

  
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Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk