

News Release

Commissioner Hoffman introduces resolution supporting Michigan Senate Bills 818, 819

July 13, 2022, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – Commissioner **Bob Hoffman** (R-Highland Twp.) introduced a resolution at the June 7 Oakland County Board of Commissioners meeting in support of requiring the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) and Detroit Zoological Society to comply with Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act.

"Both the DIA and Detroit Zoo receive taxpayer funding from their respective authority boards," Hoffman said. "It's time that the residents of Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties know where their dollars are being used."

Detroit Zoological Authority Board and Detroit Art Institute Authority meetings are currently open to the public and subject to the Michigan FOIA. The board meetings of the Detroit Zoological Society and the DIA, which make operational and budget decisions using taxpayer dollars, are not currently subject to either of these laws or open to the public.

The resolution, authored by Hoffman, supports two Senate bills that would change this requirement. Senate Bill 818 would amend the Open Meetings Act to define "meeting" to include any meeting of a board of certain art institute services providers and accredited zoological institutions, and it would include those same organizations in the definition of "public body." Senate Bill 819 would amend the FOIA to include certain art institute services providers and accredited zoological institutions.

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