

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Senator MacDonald offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the forgiveness of all fines and fees
2 imposed on and the end to all prosecutions brought against
3 businesses for violating COVID-19 orders or rules.

4 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought unprecedented
5 challenges to Michigan. Faced with twin economic and public health
6 crises, difficult decisions were required to protect the lives and
7 livelihood of Michigan residents; and

8 Whereas, In order to mitigate the virus' spread, executive
9 orders and emergency rules were issued placing restrictions on
10 business operations, including temporary closures and capacity
11 restrictions, resulting in penalties imposed on businesses.
12 Hundreds of businesses have been cited for violations of these
13 restrictions, resulting in thousands of dollars in fines and fees.

1 Some business owners have even been prosecuted for violations; and

2 Whereas, Penalties for violations of COVID-19 restrictions
3 should be waived or forgiven. Business owners have been under
4 immense pressure and encountered daunting challenges during the
5 Pandemic, with many facing the possibility of losing their life's
6 work or family business through no fault of their own. These
7 individuals did the best they could to keep employees and customers
8 safe while continuing to operate. It is not right to force these
9 individuals to pay for mistakes made under these impossible
10 circumstances; and

11 Whereas, It is in Michigan's interest to ensure that
12 businesses are in the best position to emerge from the Pandemic
13 fiscally healthy. Waiving COVID-19 related fines and fees will
14 provide some financial relief and allow these businesses to fully
15 contribute to our state's economic resurgence; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor, the
18 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Michigan
19 Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to forgive all fines
20 and fees accrued by businesses for violating COVID-19 orders or
21 rules; and be it further

22 Resolved, That we urge the Michigan Attorney General to halt
23 all prosecutions related to violations of COVID-19 orders or rules;
24 and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 Governor of Michigan, the Attorney General of Michigan, the
27 Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services,
28 and the Director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and
29 Regulatory Affairs.