

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
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LT. GOVERNOR  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

January 14, 2015

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning to you House Bill (HB) 5317 without signature. HB 5317 would remove a water supplier's ability to set the testing frequency of backflow preventers on many in-ground sprinkler systems to more often than once every 5 years.

Backflow preventers are required to be installed wherever pollutants or other chemicals could jeopardize public health by entering the drinking water system when backflow conditions occur. As with all mechanical devices, the failure rate of backflow preventers increases over time and with continued use.

Regular testing of these devices helps protect public health around the state. The frequency of testing is the responsibility of local governments, which are responsible for administering this protective service. HB 5317 proposes to eliminate that local control. Also, extending the testing frequency may increase the risk of contamination to municipal water supplies. For these reasons, I am returning this bill without signature.

HB 5317 and HB 5318 are tie barred, and without the signing of HB 5317, it is impossible for HB 5318 to take effect. Therefore, I am also returning HB 5318 without signature.

Sincerely,



Rick Snyder  
Governor