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HOUSE BILL No. 4365

February 19, 2009, Introduced by Rep. Rocca and referred to the Committee on Ethics and Elections.

A bill to prohibit certain units of government from establishing the ownership of real property as a qualification for public office; and to provide remedies.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "open access to local ballot act".
- 3 Sec. 2. (1) A unit of local government shall not require the
- 4 ownership of real property as a qualification for holding elective
- 5 or appointive public office.
- 6 (2) As used in this section, "unit of local government" means
 - a city, county, township, village, school district, authority, or
 - other political subdivision of this state and includes an entity
 - jointly created by 2 or more units of local government.

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- 1 Sec. 3. A person who is denied or threatened with denial of
- 2 access to the ballot in violation of this act may bring an action
- 3 for equitable relief and recover damages in a court of proper
- 4 jurisdiction.