



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

December 30, 2020

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today I am returning Enrolled House Bills 4910 and 4911 to you without my approval.

These bills would create additional requirements for individuals seeking reasonable accommodation for emotional support animals in housing. While I appreciate the intent behind these bills—to ensure that housing providers are able to verify the need for emotional support animals—these bills result in too great an intrusion on the privacy of people with disabilities.

In requiring that people requesting accommodations allow potential housing providers to access detailed, private information about their medical treatment and condition, these bills would constitute a significant invasion of privacy. Moreover, these requirements would exceed the scope of what a housing provider may request under the federal Fair Housing Act, thereby jeopardizing Michigan's funding for Section 8 housing.

For the foregoing reasons, I am vetoing these bills. Nevertheless, I look forward to working with the legislature to craft a solution that strikes a better balance between the need of housing providers to verify information and the privacy rights of people with disabilities.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor