

LOCAL**Leutheuser sponsored bill signed into law**

LANSING — Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation authored by State Representative Eric Leutheuser, clarifying the application of employment rules to franchisor/franchisees Feb. 23.

House Bill 2070 in now Public Act 17 or 2016.

PA 17 amended the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act to clarify that the owner of a franchise is the party best responsible for the safety of its employees. The bill, part of a six-bill package updated state regulations pertaining to the partnership between franchisee and franchisor, was approved by the state House in mid-December and the Senate in mid-February.

"I'm pleased that this legislation was approved and signed into law by Governor Snyder," Leutheuser said. "This will better define who is best responsible for the safety of employees working in franchise businesses.

"No one is more accountable than the individual in charge of that specific location, whereas a franchisor could be headquartered across the country," he added.

The legislation was prompted by a National Labor Relations Board decision in August 2015, which expanded the definition of "employer" under the National Labor Relations Act to classify certain franchises as a "joint-employer."

PA 17 is the third bill from Leutheuser to be signed into law by Snyder during the current 2015-16 legislative session.

Getting AHEAD class offered

HILLSDALE — Community Action Agency will be offering the Getting AHEAD in a Just-Gettin'-By World series beginning March 9.

Classes are limited to 10 participants and will last 14 weeks.

The program is designed to engage participants to break the cycle of generational and situational poverty that have plagued many of their families. By providing the tools, support and offering the opportunity to become "investigators," individuals are able to make the necessary changes in both thinking and behavior to transition towards self-sufficiency.

Participants set aggressive goals, look at the reasons/barriers that have previously left them short of achieving those goals. The results have been greater than anticipated.

For more information or to register call 437-3346.