

MIRS Capitol Capsule
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Dillon: Energy Package Priority One

House Speaker Andy **DILLON** (D-Redford Twp.) said today passage of a bi-partisan alternative energy package that includes reforms to the state's electric choice law is his top legislative priority going into the 2008 end of the current legislative session.

The House Speaker said adopting renewable portfolio standards and other pieces of legislation to encourage alternative energy production is linked with making changes to P.A. 141 and he's working with House Energy and Tech Committee Chair Frank **ACCAVITTI** Jr. (D-Eastpointe) and Rep. Mike **NOFS** (R-Battle Creek) on what those changes will be.

Dillon said he's excited about the \$6 billion investment DTE and Consumers Energy is willing to make in alternative energy, one that is expected to create 17,000 Michigan jobs, but he realizes that changes to P.A. 141 is part of the deal.

Accavitti's answer is to make customers commit long term to an energy company, be it DTE, Consumers Energy or an alternative supplier. Nofs is proposing putting a 10 percent market cap on the amount of business an alternate supplier can enjoy. Nofs also wants to phase out the practice of the business community paying higher energy rates so residential customers don't have to pay as much.

Dillon said Nofs and Accavitti are headed in the right direction and that he hopes a resolution is reached in February. The Senate is looking to complete the issue in March.