



MHI Rolls Out Test of Legislative Tracking System

During the MHI Summer Meeting in Indianapolis, MHI unveiled the test of a new system designed to assist states and member organizations identify and track the progress of state legislation and local ordinances.

“We contacted a third party provider, and had them run about a dozen basic word searches describing our industry and some of the issues we’re facing,” said MHI Chairman Nathan Smith. “I was shocked when they told us the search identified over 6,000 pieces of legislation for 2013.”

In response, MHI engaged Multi-State Associates of Arlington, Virginia, to track legislative activities impacting the industry in 15 states and 1829 local jurisdictions within those states. Multi-State is the leading organization in legislative tracking and represents many industries being impacted by legislation on the state and local level.

The fifteen states being tracked were selected on the basis of the number of shipments and land-lease community sites. They are: California, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Oregon, Michigan, Indiana, New York, Arizona, South Carolina, Illinois and Alabama. At the end of the year long test, MHI will evaluate the effectiveness of the program. However, directors from states not included in the test have already asked how to be added to the list.

Noting that not all states can afford expensive tracking programs, Ken Anderson, Executive Director of the Arizona Housing Association called the initiative, “a progressive idea on doing a better job on identifying potentially harmful bills.”

Once a bill or ordinance is identified, it will be forwarded to the appropriate state association before distributing it to a wider list of MHI members who sign up for the free service. A Word document containing state legislative updates will be distributed twice a week. Local ordinance alerts will be sent out on an “as received” basis.

“I feel strongly this program is one of the most important and valuable programs MHI has ever rolled out of benefit to the states and really all MHI members,” said Tim Williams when he announced the program to the Board of Directors for the Ohio MHA. “We are pleased to be one of the 15 states selected initially for the program.”

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MHI President and CEO Dick Jennison added an important caveat. “This system should not be considered a cure-all for state and local advocacy,” he said. “It’s only one more tool in the arsenal and only as accurate as the search terms we feed it. We still need to keep our collective ears to the ground on the state and local level.”

To sign up for the program, please contact Rick Robinson at rrobinson@mfgghome.org and specify if you want to receive state updates, local updates or both.