

‘Ambulance chasing’ bills signed into law

By: Gary Gosselin in The MiLW Blog December 27, 2013

A pair of bills meant to stop solicitation of accident victims for 30 days after their accidents — known as the “Ambulance Chasing” bills — have been signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

HB 4770 and HB 4771, introduced by Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton, D-Huntington Woods, and Rep. Joseph Graves, R-Argentine Township, respectively, were signed by Snyder, creating Public acts 218 and 219.

The acts prohibit using the accident reports for any direct solicitation of an individual, vehicle owner, or property owner listed in the report for 30 days.

And, the acts prohibit disclosure of any personal information contained in the report to a third party for commercial solicitation of an individual, vehicle owner, or property owner listed in the report.

“Congratulations to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder for cleaning up Michigan personal injury law and protecting auto accident victims from ruthless and overly aggressive mail solicitations by “ambulance chasing” lawyers in Michigan,” said Farmington Hills attorney Steven M. Gursten in a statement. He has been advocating for such legislation for some time.

And, the laws have teeth.

For a first violation, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$30,000 and for a second or subsequent violation, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$60,000, or both.