

[Gov. Snyder asks the Michigan Supreme Court for an advisory opinion on the constitutionality of new tax law](#)

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The *Detroit Free Press* [reports](#) today that Governor Snyder has asked the Michigan Supreme Court to issue an advisory opinion on the constitutionality of the new tax law, which will take effect January 1, 2012. His request asks the Court to opine on questions including whether taxing pensions impairs a contractual relationship under the U.S. Constitution and whether the law's provisions violate equal-protection guarantees. Advisory opinions are addressed in [section 8 of article III](#) of Michigan's Constitution, which provides that "[e]ither house of the legislature or the governor may request the opinion of the supreme court on important questions of law upon solemn occasions as to the constitutionality of legislation after it has been enacted into law but before its effective date." The Court has discretion in responding to such requests and has declined many requests for advisory opinions.