




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

MASA Legislative Update

Brought to you by: 

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Summary

The Legislature had a full week of session and committee hearings this week and began moving several pieces of legislation aligned with their priorities this week, including education issues.

We also have a Call to Action for you this week regarding a bill focused on collective bargaining changes. Read more about the bill below. **We strongly encourage you to reach out to the House Labor Committee members to express your concerns.**

As always, please [contact MASA](#) with any questions or concerns.

Collective Bargaining Changes Has a Hearing in House Labor Committee

The House Labor Committee, chaired by Rep. Haadsma (D-Battle Creek), heard testimony on [House Bill 4044](#). The bill, introduced by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), would repeal Public Act 54 of 2011. Repealing this law would **prohibit the freezing of certain benefits and wages during contract negotiations for public school employees and would allow for retroactive pay and benefits when an agreement is reached.**

Several public school teachers from across the state testified in support of the bill, and many shared personal stories of their own contract negotiations. **Those that testified believe this bill will equal the playing field during contract negotiations and make it a fairer process for teachers and other school staff.** The general thrust of the testimony was that repealing this law would significantly help with the teacher shortage.

MASA opposes this bill as introduced because it would repeal the entire law and could lead to an increase in contracts not being ratified on a timely basis.

Please reach out to the House Labor Committee [members](#) and express your concerns with [House Bill 4044](#).

- Chair, Rep. Haadsma (D-Battle Creek)
- Vice Chair, Rep. Mentzer (D-Mount Clemens)
- Minority Vice Chair, Rep. Wozniak (R-Macomb)
- Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth)
- Rep. O'Neal (D-Saginaw)
- Rep. Andrews (D-St. Joseph)
- Rep. Churches (D-Wyandotte)
- Rep. Wegela (D-Inkster)
- Rep. Mueller (R-Genesee)
- Rep. Kunse (R-Clare)

The House Labor Committee will continue to hear testimony on the bill next week. We will continue to keep you updated on this legislation as it moves through the Legislature.

Tax Cut Bill Heads to Governor for Signature

The Conference Report on [House Bill 4001](#), introduced by Rep. Witwer (D-Lansing), passed the Senate floor along party lines in a vote of 20-17. **The bill would lower taxes for lower-income workers and retirees while also putting funds toward business incentives in the SOAR fund and increase the state's Earned Income Tax Credit from the current rate of 6% to a 30% match of the federal rate.**

Senate Democrats were unable to secure enough Republican support to include \$180 tax refund checks in the plan during a marathon 13-hour session this week. The bill did not receive a two-thirds majority to have immediate effect. One of the goals of the plan – **stopping the income tax reduction trigger** – is in jeopardy.

Without the \$180 refund checks being included in the plan, **the budget surplus could reach over \$9 billion and will activate an income tax trigger that would permanently decrease the income tax rate from 4.25% to 4.05%**

The bill has been presented to the governor. We will keep you updated on the status of the bill and the economic and revenue impacts going forward.

House Committee Votes Out Third Grade Reading Bill

The House Committee on Education, chaired by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), heard testimony on [Senate Bill 12](#), introduced by Sen. Polehanki (D-Livonia), and [House Bill 4020](#), introduced by Rep. Shannon (Sterling Heights).

After House Bill 4020 was substituted in committee, **both bills eliminate the retention component on the state's Read by Grade Three law while**

keeping all literacy interventions and resources for students and schools. The committee voted out the bill on a vote of 9-5. [Senate Bill 12](#) recently passed the Senate chamber on a vote of 22-16.

MASA supports repealing the retention component of the law. We anticipate the House will vote on the legislation soon, and it will be sent to the governor for her signature.

Legislature Hears Testimony on Gun Legislation

The House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Breen (D-Novi), heard testimony on an **11-bill package to create "Red Flag" statutes, safe storage mandates with penalties, and background check requirements for private firearm sales in Michigan.** The Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee, chaired by Sen. Chang (D-Detroit), also took testimony on a similar bill package this week.

[House Bill 4138 \(Churches\)](#), [SB 76 \(Hertel\)](#) Requires license or background check for purchase of firearms

[House Bill 4142 \(Carter\)](#), [SB 77 \(Moss\)](#) Updates references to pistol in penal code

[House Bill 4143 \(Grant\)](#), [SB 78 \(Cavanagh\)](#) Updates references in sentencing guidelines

[House Bill 4144 \(Brabec\)](#), [SB 79 \(Bayer\)](#) Provides penalties for storing or leaving a firearm where it may be accessed by a minor

[House Bill 4139 \(MacDonell\)](#), [SB 80 \(McDonald-Rivet\)](#) Updates sentencing guidelines references

[House Bill 4141 \(Price\)](#), [SB 81 \(Irwin\)](#) Exempts firearm safety devices from sales tax

[House Bill 4140 \(Whitsett\)](#), [SB 82 \(Chang\)](#) Exempts firearm safety devices from use tax

[House Bill 4145 \(Puri\)](#), [SB 83 \(McMorrow\)](#) Enacts injunctions to Extreme Risk Protection Order Act

[House Bill 4146 \(Breen\)](#), [SB 84 \(Polehanki\)](#) Prohibits purchase of firearms if individual has an Extreme Risk Protection Order

[House Bill 4148 \(Young\)](#), [SB 85 \(Anthony\)](#) Creates guidelines for making a false statement in support of an Extreme Risk Protection Order

[House Bill 4147 \(Brixie\)](#), [SB 86 \(Singh\)](#) Creates service of process for Extreme Risk Protection Order actions and provides waive court fees

The Committee meetings had hours of testimony and were both highly attended by the public. **The hearings will continue into next week.**

We will keep you up-to-date as the package moves through the legislative process.

Senate Moves Closer to Pass School Sinking Fund Flexibility

The Senate chamber placed on third reading [Senate Bill 63](#), which **allows for school sinking funds to be used for transportation**. We anticipate the bill will be voted on by the chamber next week.

The bill had previously passed the Senate Committee on Education, chaired by Rep. Polehanki (D-Livonia), on a 6-1 vote. Sen. Polehanki introduced **a substitute to further expand the legislation to allow for sinking funds to also go toward maintenance of school transportation vehicles**.

MASA supported the bill in committee and continues to do so as the bill moves through the legislative process.

House and Senate PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee Meetings

Budget season has begun to ramp up in recent weeks following the Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation a month ago.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on PreK-12, chaired by Sen. Camilleri (D-Trenton), heard a presentation from Education Trust–Midwest and the Detroit NAACP Education Committee on funding models, and Kent ISD and the Education Advocates of West Michigan on the School Finance Research Collaborative.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and Education, chaired by Rep. Weiss (D-Oak Park), heard a presentation from the State Budget Office on the Executive Budget Recommendation and State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice on MDE's priorities for this legislative session.

This Week's Introduced Bills

[House Bill 4165 \(O'Neal\)](#) Modifies eligibility for career and technical education funding

[House Bill 4157 \(Coleman\)](#) Provides for an excused absence from public school for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honor funeral for a deceased veteran

[House Bill 4166 \(Koleszar\)](#) Eliminates the letter grade system (A-F) for ranking public schools

[House Bill 4168 \(Weiss\)](#) Supplemental appropriations in the school aid act for fiscal year 2022-2023