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### Summary

This week in Lansing saw **significant Committee action on various education policy bills**, but the big news downtown was the Legislature sending a **ballot proposal to the voters to modify term limits and financial disclosures for the Legislature**. [House Joint Resolution R](#) was passed by

both chambers, receiving the necessary two-thirds vote to pass. The resolution would reduce the total amount of time served in the Legislature to 12 years (from 14) but would allow all 12 years to be served in a single chamber. The resolution would also require various financial disclosure from legislators. The resolution will now go to the voters for approval this November.

We need your help! The MASA Government Relations team is **gathering data on emergency responder radio coverage systems in schools**. There is pending legislation that may impose new requirements on your district. **Please take a moment to let us know about your facilities using this [short survey](#)**. Your information is essential to our advocacy efforts!

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

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## Senate Education

The Senate Education Committee had a very full agenda this week. We have outlined the major topics that were covered below. There were no votes taken on Tuesday.

### WorkKeys

The Senate heard testimony on a package of House bills that would make the WorkKeys assessment optional. Together, [HB 4037](#), [HB 4038](#), and [HB 4538](#) would prohibit a school district from requiring the administration of a workforce readiness assessment. **The savings the state realizes after removing the mandatory requirement would allow districts to be reimbursed for several qualifying assessments**. These would be assessments that are included on MDE's list and that can generate postsecondary credentials or credits, including:

- Assessments required by Michigan as a prerequisite for obtaining a professional certification or license necessary for employment in the field of certification or licensure.

- Career and technical education technical skills assessments necessary to achieve completer status in a career and technical education program.
- Assessments that enable students to earn credit for introductory level courses that count toward completion of a postsecondary credential by achieving satisfactory scores.
- Any other assessments determined by MDE to be capable of generating postsecondary credentials for high school students.

These payments would be in an amount equal to either of the following, whichever was less: the total actual cost submitted in the district's or ISD's application, up to \$100 per student; or \$100 per student for whom the actual costs are associated. **MASA supports this legislation** as many districts already expend these dollars and this could help with those costs.

### **Pupil Accounting and Auditing Manual**

[HB 5686](#) would make changes to the Pupil Accounting and Auditing Manual, also known as the "PAM" The introduced bill would have required legislative approval for changes to the pupil accounting manual (PAM) and pupil membership auditing manual (PMAM) by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The adopted bills changed this language to **require MDE to send any changes to the Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees before they can take effect.** The provision requiring that an amendment made to either manual could not take effect until the following school year at the earliest was kept in the substitute.

### **MME**

The Committee also heard testimony on [House Bills 4810](#) and [4811](#), which would **eliminate the requirement to include the Michigan Merit Examination ("MME") score on a student's transcript and eliminate the written component requirement of the MME.** As you are aware, current law

requires districts to administer the MME and requires the department contract with one or more providers to develop, supply, and score the MME.

Current law also requires the assessment to include a writing component in which the pupil produces an extended writing sample. HB 4810-1 removes this requirement, and instead allows the department to consider the degree to which assessment instruments would be aligned to Michigan's content standards when selecting an assessment that fulfills the MME requirements.

### **Financial Literacy**

[HB 5190](#) would amend the Michigan Merit curriculum to **require every student to complete a .5 credit of personal finance** with a financial literacy competent to be awarded a high school diploma.

The House-passed version of the bill reduced the foreign language credit requirement from 2 to 1.5, so HB 5190 would not increase the overall total number of credits required under the MMC. However, the Senate adopted a substituted version of the bill that made several changes:

- First, the financial literacy course must be completed in grades 9-12. If the current bill passes students will not have the option of completing the course prior to high school, unlike other requirements in the MMC.
- Second, the Senate version states that the .5 credit of personal finance could be completed to fulfill a .5 required credit of math, foreign language, or visual arts, performing arts or applied arts.
- And finally, the new version of HB 5190 would state that the MDE will be responsible for developing a curriculum for a financial literacy course. This is an important distinction from other MMC requirements where the MDE develops content standards rather than dictating specific curriculum.

In the bill's current form, if passed, this requirement would apply to students entering the 8th grade in 2023.

**MASA, while supportive of incorporating financial literacy content into the standards (as already happens), does not support the bill** as it would add another required course to the MMC, squeezing out other options like CTE. We are also concerned about the teacher certification requirements should the bill pass in its current form.

## Retirement

[HB 4735](#) would amend the Public School Employees Retirement Act to **allow retirees to return to work without a salary cap after sitting out for 12 months**. This would remove the requirement that the retiree be hired back in a critical shortage discipline.

HB 4375 makes this change but reiterates the requirement for a bona fide termination of employment. This means that the employee must completely sever the relationship with their employer without a promise or a contingency offer to become employed at any public school district, ISD, PSA, tax-supported community or junior college, and in limited cases universities. This is the current practice for retirees returning to critical shortage positions. **To be clear, a bona fide termination of employment is currently required for those returning in critical shortage positions.**

Additionally, [HB 5536](#) is tie-barred to HB 4375. This bill would require the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) to prepare three different reports regarding retirees who are employed under the changes HB 4375 makes.

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## House Education

On Tuesday, the House Education committee covered two areas of legislation.

First, we heard testimony on [HB 6013](#), sponsored by Rep. Pam Hornberger (R-Chesterfield), which would **establish a grant program for student and mentor teachers within MDE**. Mentor teachers would receive \$1,000 for serving in their role as a mentor teacher, and student teachers would receive

\$90 for each day they work as a student teacher. These stipends would be paid out during the school year in which the grant is received by the district. HB 6013 would permit MDE to develop the grant application process.

Second, [HB 6039](#) and [HB 6040](#) would make changes to **allow certain students who are in their fifth year of high school and enrolled in an early middle college program to participate in intercollegiate athletics** at the postsecondary institution where they are enrolled. Currently this is not allowed.

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## **Call to Action: Tell your Legislators to Oppose Student Opportunity Scholarships**

As you know, late last year the governor **vetoed SB 687-8 and HB 5404-5, legislation that would create an unconstitutional voucher program in our state.** Following that action, **Let MI Kids Learn initiated two ballot proposals to counteract the veto.** One would establish the Student Opportunity Act and the Student Opportunity Scholarship program. The second would allow taxpayers to claim tax credits for contributions for education expenses under the scholarship program. Once there is a sufficient number of signatures collected, the matter will go back to the Legislature.

**These programs would divert hundreds of millions in tax revenue away from public schools.** The amount taken away would increase by 20% every year for five years, meaning up to \$1 billion could be taken away annually.

We are asking that you please [contact your House and Senate members to urge them to vote no on the legislation.](#)

You can also visit the [MASA website](#) to learn more about how we can all work together to counteract these efforts.

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## **Join Us in D.C this July!**

**AASA's Legislative Advocacy Conference is happening this July 12-14 in Washington, D.C.!** This conference is the premier opportunity for school superintendents and school business officials to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and learn about the latest federal policy issues that will impact their districts.

Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

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## **This Week's Introduced Bills**

[HB 6095 \(Calley\)](#) would modify pupil membership counting requirements for specific subgroups of students.

[HB 6100 \(Rogers\)](#) would allow districts experiencing staff shortages due to COVID and not reaching at least 60% attendance to receive a payment from MDE for up to 9 days of instruction. Additionally, the bill would allow for 5 days (equivalent number of hours) to be counted when instruction is not provided due to COVID caused staff shortage.

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## **Reminder: Benchmark Assessment Reporting**

State law requires district **superintendents to present to their board by the end of the school year the following benchmark assessment updates:**

- Subject to state and federal privacy laws, the results from benchmark assessments and local benchmark assessments, as applicable, administered under section 104a.
- For each school operated by the district, each school's progress toward meeting the educational goals.

Furthermore, the **report must be disaggregated by grade level, by student demographics, and by the mode of instruction** received by the pupils to which the information applies, and the information presented under must also

be compiled into a report that the district shall make available through the transparency reporting link located on the district's website.

For more information, the law is [available here](#).

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## **ESSER III Reporting**

A reminder that under ESSR II formula funding, **districts must update their continuity of services/ in-person learning plan every six months upon receipt of the initial grant.** Please see [this link](#) for more information.