




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

MASA Legislative Update

Brought to you by: 

Sept. 15, 2023

In This Update

- [Education Committees Round-Up](#)
 - [House Local Government Committee Held Hearing on Disabled Vet Property Tax Exemptions](#)
 - [Health Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health Held Hearing on Increasing School Counselors](#)
 - [House Higher Ed Committee Held Hearing on Students Wearing Traditional Regalia](#)
 - [This Week's Introduced Bills](#)
-

Summary

It was a busy week at the Capitol as the Legislature got back into the swing of things. The MASA team is looking forward to connecting with you next week at our annual Fall Conference in Traverse City. For now, we have a few updates to share with you.

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

Education Committees Round-Up

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Polehanki (D-Livonia), discussed legislation that would **revise the retirement sit-out period for public school employees**. [House Bill 4752](#), introduced by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), would eliminate the nine-month sit-out period for retirees but would limit compensation to \$10,000 per calendar year. Under HB 4752, which was already passed by the House earlier this year, there would be no cap on earnings after the nine months expired.

Rep. Koleszar introduced a substitute in committee **increasing the compensation cap to \$15,000 per calendar year**. Although the bill was not voted out of committee this week, but we expect more action very soon.

The House Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), held a broad committee **hearing on school safety**. Multiple stakeholders testified before committee members, including Bob Kefgen, MASSP's Director of Government Relations, and parents who have been personally affected by school violence. In addition, Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the 2023 Michigan Superintendent of the Year, and Dr. John Dignan, Superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools, presented on school safety in their districts and how to improve safety measures.

Finally, Rep. Breen (D-Novi) and Rep. Meerman (R-Coopersville) presented their **bipartisan school safety bill package**, which has been re-introduced from last session. The conversation will continue on school safety as this bill package begins to gain traction in the Legislature.

House Local Government Committee Held Hearing on Disabled Vet Property Tax Exemptions

The House Local Government Committee, chaired by Rep. Fitzgerald (D-Grand Rapids), heard testimony on bills to **revise property tax exemptions for**

disabled veterans. The three-bill package proposes a process for a disabled veteran or the widow of a disabled veteran to claim the homestead credit.

- [House Bill 4894](#), introduced by Rep. Shannon (D-Sterling Heights)
- [House Bill 4895](#), introduced by Rep. Roth (R-Grand Traverse)
- [House Bill 4896](#), introduced by Rep. Fitzgerald (D-Grand Rapids)

As a result, the revisions on the property tax exemption would **increase revenue for the School Aid Fund**. MASA supported the bills in committee and will continue to express support as they move through the legislative process.

Health Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health Held Hearing on Increasing School Counselors

The House Health Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health, chaired by Rep. Brabec (D-Washtenaw), heard testimony on [House Bill 4081](#), a bill she has introduced. The bill would require a **school district to hire at least one school counselor for every 250 students**. MASA will continue to keep you up to date on the status of this bill.

House Higher Ed Committee Held Hearing on Students Wearing Traditional Regalia

The House Higher Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Steckloff (D-Farmington Hills), heard testimony on [House Bill 4854](#), introduced by Rep. Scott (D-Detroit). The bill would allow students to **wear culturally and religiously significant items of dress on school grounds, including for graduation ceremonies**.

This Week's Introduced Bills

[House Bill 5010 \(Stone\)](#) Requires classroom management training for teaching certification

[House Bill 5011 \(Weiss\)](#) Requires classroom management training for substitute teachers

[Senate Bill 500 \(Polehanki\)](#) Creates a free school lunch and breakfast program