




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

MASA Legislative Update

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Summary

It was great to see and connect with so many of you at the Fall Conference last week. While we were in Traverse City, the House and Senate were both in session and their respective Education Committees also had a full schedule. We expect a busy couple of months ahead. For now, we have a few updates from the Capitol to share with you from the last two weeks.

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

Senate Approves Changes to Retiree Return to Work Rules; Bill Sent to the Governor

Last week, the Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Polehanki (D-Livonia), voted unanimously to send [House Bill 4752](#), introduced by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), to the Senate floor for consideration.

A committee substitute was adopted **allowing a retiree to return to work in the first six months as long as they do not make more than \$15,100 per calendar year**. It also states that a retiree could **not serve as a superintendent for the first six months** after retirement. These provisions will sunset in five years.

The Senate voted in favor of the legislation on a vote count of 37-1. The bill was sent to the House to concur with the Senate on the substitute and the House voted in favor in a vote count of 102-6. The bill will now be **sent to the governor's desk for her signature, which we expect**. Importantly, the bill was granted immediate effect, which means it **becomes law as soon as it is signed** by Governor Whitmer. We will let you know when that happens.

Prohibited Subject of Bargaining Bill Sent to Governor

The Legislature passed [House Bill 4356](#), introduced by Rep. Carter (D-Pontiac), which was **initially part of the prohibited subjects of bargaining bill package** enacted this spring. When that bill package was presented to the governor for her signature, HB 4356 was **pulled at the last minute due to a drafting error**. If signed at that time, it would override measures in the other prohibited subjects of bargaining bills. The **corrected bill passed** 20-16 in the Senate and 56-54 in the House, and we **expect it to be signed by the governor soon**.

Senate Education Committee Round-Up

The Senate Education Committee began hearings last week on [Senate Bill 500](#), introduced by Sen. Polehanki (D-Livonia), who is also the Committee Chair. The bill follows the \$160M appropriation in the School Aid budget for a **free breakfast and lunch program for students in public schools**.

The legislation would **require MDE to operate the free breakfast and lunch program and place the program in the Revised School Code to make certain it is funded each year**. The bill was unanimously voted out of the Committee this week, with one senator opting to pass. The bill now awaits action on the Senate floor, and we anticipate it will be voted on by the full chamber soon.

This week the Committee heard testimony on [Senate Bill 518](#), introduced by Sen. Camilleri (D-Trenton), to **modify the interim special education teaching certification**, which is expected to sunset in July 2024. The bill would allow current educators to teach special education as they work to receive their special education certificate and extends the sunset an additional three years to July 2027. The bill was not voted out by the committee this week, but we expect it to be on the Senate floor for consideration soon.

House Education Committee Round-Up

Last week, the House Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), heard testimony on [House Bill 4241](#), introduced by Rep. Carter (D-Pontiac), which would **require schools to have a panic alarm system in the school building**. [House Bill 4242](#), also introduced by Rep. Carter, provides the funding for installation of at least one panic alarm.

This week, [House Bill 5021](#), introduced by Rep. Koleszar (D-Plymouth), was up for testimony in the House Education Committee. The legislation **revises the default option from a 401K to a pension system for newly hired public school employees**. We expect another hearing to take place soon and will keep you up to date as the bill moves through the legislative process.

House Passes Filter First Legislation

Last week, the House passed [House Bill 4341](#), introduced by Rep. Puri (D-Canton), on a vote count of 76-34. The bill would **require each school to develop a “drinking water safety plan”** and make the plan available to the Legislature. The bill also **creates the “Clean Drinking Water Fund” within the Department of Treasury and requires the Legislature to appropriate funding** to allow schools to comply with the new requirements. The bill is now up for Senate consideration.

Federal Government Shutdown Approaching

The U.S. Congress is likely to **trigger a government shutdown on Oct 1 due to gridlock in the House**. Lawmakers have thus far failed to pass 12 appropriations bills to fund the government before the start of its new fiscal year.

Republican leaders in the House and Senate **reached an agreement with the Biden Administration in June**, called the Fiscal Responsibility Act, to **lift the federal debt ceiling**. The agreement also **set limits on annual spending** for both defense and non-defense expenditures. The expectations were that Congress would pass appropriations bills that added up to the agreed-upon levels. The **Senate has passed all 12 funding bills**, but the **House has failed to reach a consensus** on spending limits due to disagreements with the previous debt ceiling deal.

Since most education funding is allocated at the state and local level, it is expected that only **schools that receive funding for Head Start and Impact Aid could be immediately impacted by a shutdown**. Schools that operate those programs should be preparing now for a temporary freeze in funding.

The most recent government shutdown back in 2018 lasted 35 days. There is no way to predict how long one could last if an agreement is not reached by this Sunday's Oct 1 deadline.

This Week's Introduced Bills

[House Bill 5018 \(O'Neal\)](#) Provides funding to implement a career development model

[House Bill 5042 \(Churches\)](#) Modifies free school lunch and breakfast program

[House Bill 5051 \(VanWoerkom\)](#) Modifies merit curriculum requirement

[Senate Bill 512 \(Daley\)](#) Modifies school aid penalties for districts and intermediate districts

[Senate Bill 534 \(Bellino\)](#) Allows recess to be counted as pupil instruction time

[Senate Bill 535 \(McDonald-Rivet\)](#) Allows recess to be counted as pupil instruction time

[House Bill 5021 \(Koleszar\)](#) Revises default option for newly hired employee

[House Bill 5025 \(Arbit\)](#) Repeals educational instruction access act

[Senate Bill 518 \(Camilleri\)](#) Modifies interim teaching certification process