

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | May 10, 2019



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Summary

This week in Lansing the focus was auto insurance reform. Shortly after 2 a.m. on Thursday, following a more than 12-hour session, the House passed a bill that would make sweeping changes to how auto insurance covers health care for people injured in traffic crashes. On Tuesday, the Senate passed their

version. Gov. Whitmer has promised a veto of the bills if they make it to her desk.

This could be foreshadowing to what's to come on hot button issues, including the budget.

We are pleased to report that today, Gov. Whitmer signed HB 4206 creating a waiver process for the four State of Emergency days this winter. The Michigan Department of Education is now tasked with outlining the process by which a district can apply for that waiver. We will be in touch as soon as that process is set.

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

State Board of Education Selects New State Superintendent

The State Board of Education has identified the next State Superintendent of Public Instruction. MASA would like to congratulate Dr. Michael Rice from Kalamazoo Public Schools on being selected to lead the department. Dr. Rice has led Kalamazoo for a dozen years and was a local superintendent in New Jersey. He began his career as a teacher in Washington, D.C., and has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Yale University and a master's and doctorate in public administration from New York University.

Dr. Rice will take over at MDE on July 1, 2019.

House Education Reform Recap

The 21st Century Skills package moved this week. All bills were reported to the House Ways and Means Committee. We recapped this package in last week's update, but as a reminder, these bills propose changes to the Michigan Merit Curriculum. If passed, students would be permitted to take statistics or financial literacy instead of algebra II, Occupational Safety and Health

Administration (OSHA) training would contribute to the physical education requirement and the foreign language requirement, and the visual and performing arts requirements would be replaced by a three-credit 21st Century Skills requirement.

During committee, Rep. William Sowerby (D-Clinton Township) offered an amendment that would require one credit of foreign language sometime during a student's K-12 career. It was adopted.

The Labor Day bills were reported from the House Education Committee to Ways and Means. As a reminder, HB 4369, sponsored by Steve Johnson (R-Wayland), would repeal the prohibition on beginning school before Labor Day. MASA testified in support of the bill during a previous hearing. On Tuesday, the committee revised the language of the bill and returned to the initial introduced version. This bill had been substituted to repeal the common calendar for ISDs. We were able to resolve this issue with the sponsor.

The other piece of legislation is HB 4368, sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield), would repeal the requirement that a district or ISD requesting a waiver for Labor Day start conduct a joint public hearing with MDE. Currently, that hearing must be held before a waiver can be granted. This bill will not be necessary if HB 4369 is enacted into law.

ICYMI: Gov. Whitmer Announces her Educator Advisory Council

On Thursday, Gov. Whitmer announced her appointments to the Governor's Educator Advisory Council. The group will be responsible for reviewing and making recommendations regarding legislation relevant to this state's public education system, identifying and analyzing issues impacting the effectiveness of Michigan's public education system, identifying best practices in public education and recommending corresponding changes and improvements to Michigan's public education system, and providing other information or advice relevant to public education. You can find more details [here](#).

