

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | December 14, 2018



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Summary

There were many late nights this week in Lansing. After six days of this lame duck session, the A-F vote came in the early hours of Thursday morning. As you know, the bill narrowly cleared the House with the minimum votes that were

necessary for passage of the bill. This came after a marathon session and negotiation between House Leadership and Republican members.

The bill was drastically amended near the end of the 17 hour session. The 13 person commission that was politically appointed and was granted oversight of the the new accountability system was removed. Instead oversight of the system will be given to the



Michigan Department of Education. A five member peer review panel will comprise of three members appointed by the governor, one member appointed by the House speaker and one by the Senate majority leader. It's not entirely clear which governor will be appointing, as the law has a 90 day effective clause, but there's speculation that Gov. Snyder and current legislative leaders will try to weigh in.

Under the proposed legislation, letter grades would be assigned in several categories including student proficiency, student growth and graduation rates. A letter grade would be given on proficiency and individual student growth on the math and English portions of the state assessment. MDE could utilize benchmark assessments instead of student growth percentiles under the current version of the bill.

A peer school comparison is also included, which will grade schools based on their performance as compared with other schools of similar size and demographic makeup.

Schools that achieve the lowest grade possible in proficiency, growth and peer school comparison would be categorized as "lowest achieving" and subject to potential sanctions.

Schools would also receive descriptive ratings of either significantly above average, above average, average, below average, and significantly below average. Ratings, rather than letter grades are determined by performance in categories including participation rate on state assessments, chronic absenteeism rates and subgroup performance.

The first scores would be released September 1, 2019 and MDE would be required to publish them September 1 of every year.

If the Senate doesn't make any changes, the bill will go directly to Gov. Snyder's desk for signature. If the Senate does make changes, the House will have to agree to those changes, and given the herculean effort it took to get through the House, this is an uphill climb.

We believe that if this bill gets to the governor's desk, he will sign it, regardless of the final product. A letter grading system is one of his few remaining educational priorities.

Senate Activity Recap

Senate Education Committee

The committee reported out [HB 6378](#) sponsored by Rep. Scott VanSingel (R-Grant). The bill creates a procedure for granting service credit to certain employees of a tax supported community or junior college. This bill is a follow up to SB 888, Public Act 328 of 2018, which established that community college students who also work part time for the school are not enrolled in

MPSERS, and community colleges do not need to make contributions on their behalf. It was necessary cleanup legislation that ORS requested.

Testimony only was taken on the innovative district bills, HB 6314 and HB 6315. The Michigan Department of Education testified in opposition to the bill and MASA opposes the legislation. Chairman Pavlov indicated his only commitment on the bills was to hold a hearing—but we still aren't sure whether the bills have legs in the long run.

Additionally, the committee heard testimony on the portion of the teacher preparation package that was reported from the House last week. Several representatives from teacher colleges testified on the bills during committee. It is not clear if the Chair intends to have a vote on the bills. The portion of the package that saw action was

- [HB 5598](#) sponsored by Rep. Daniela Garcia (R-Holland) all Educator Preparation Programs must require at least 30 hours per year of continuing education for instructors in preparation programs in order for a teacher preparation institution to be accredited.
- [HB 5602](#) sponsored by Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw) requires MDE to create a 100-member Master Teacher Corps comprised of classroom teachers from the state that are nominated by their districts.
- [HB 5603](#) sponsored by Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw) requires individuals to complete at least 12 early elementary credits and at least 9 later elementary credits in the teaching of reading in order to receive a provisional teaching certificate.
- [HB 5604](#) sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) requires students in teacher preparation programs to have experiences working in rural and urban settings and with students with disabilities, English language learners, among others.

- [HB 5605](#) sponsored by Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.) requires teacher preparation institutions to provide a student teaching experience that uses a district assessment tool and classroom management, as well as a number of other specifics including instruction on social and emotional learning practices.

House Activity Recap

Substitute Teaching Bill Passed

[HB 4421](#) allows districts to employ an individual without a teaching certificate as a substitute teacher if the individual has 60 semester hours of college credit or an associate degree from a college, university, or community college. Alternatively, for substitute teaching a course in an industrial technology education program or a career and technical education program, the board of a school district or ISD also could employ an individual without a teaching certificate as a substitute teacher if the individual had achieved expertise, as determined by the district board, and the individual satisfied all of the following, if applicable:

- Had a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate.
- Had at least two cumulative years of professional experience in that same subject matter or field in the immediately preceding 10 years.
- For substitute teaching in a subject matter or field in which a professional license of

certification was required, at least one of the following: a) held a professional license or certification in that subject matter or field, or b) previously held a

license or certification in that subject matter or field that expired not more than two years before his or her initial employment as an uncertificated, and was in good standing immediately before it expired.

The bill passed 64-45. MASA supports this legislation

Teacher Evaluation Bills Passed

[HB 5707](#) Modifies performance evaluation systems for public school teachers and school administrators. Keeps the percentage of evaluation based on growth at 25%. The bill passed 104-5 and was referred in the Senate to the committee of the whole

[HB 6401](#) Modifies performance evaluation systems for school administrators to keep the percentage of evaluation based on growth at 25%. The bill passed 104-5 and was referred to the Senate Education committee. It is not clear if the committee will meet again this session. MASA supports this legislation.

Committee Round Up

Reported from House Tourism and Recreation Committee

[SB 1035](#) sponsored by Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford) exempts real property of a sportsmen club that dedicates its facilities for charitable purposes for a certain period of time each tax year from property taxes. A sportsman club that allows for the use of their property for charitable reasons at least 55 days out of the year would be exempt from property taxes. This bill has an unknown effect on local revenues. State revenue from the State Education Tax to the School Aid Fund would be reduced, and the State costs of the foundation allowance payable by the School Aid Fund would increase. The amount of the revenue reduction is unknown, but the impact would depend on the number of sportsmen's clubs that qualified for the exemption, as well as the taxable value of the property and local millage rates. The bill is now on second reading.

School Safety Bills Reported from House Appropriations

The following bills were reported from committee and now are on second reading.

- [SB 982](#)-Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) creates an Office of School Safety, outlines its powers and duties and allows for oversight by the Department of State Police.
- [SB 983](#)-Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) requires schools to conduct school safety assessments in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies and for schools to develop emergency operations plans.
- [SB 990](#)- Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) would require that school district or public school academy consult with local law enforcement agency and adopt building plans at a public meeting before construction or major renovation of a school building
- [SB 991](#)-Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) would require that the governing body of a school provide Michigan State Police with an emergency contact information. The School official could receive information at any time. A school could allow for two officials to receive information and specify days and times that each official was available.
- [SB 882](#) sponsored by Sen. David Knezek (D- Dearborn Heights) will allow for school boards to have closed meetings to consider security planning to address existing threats or prevent potential threats to the safety of students and staff.