

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | May 25, 2018



In this update:

- Summary
- Marshall Plan
- Senate Committees Acts on School Safety Bills
- Senate Education Committee Talks Teacher Shortage
- ICYMI: MDE Updates

Summary

Thank you to all of our members who made the trip to Lansing this week for our joint legislative conference with MASB. Stay tuned for an update on advocacy events later this year.

This week in Lansing, the House passed a 27-bill sexual assault prevention package over to the Senate. The bills, detailed in several recent updates, included some limitations on governmental immunity, as well as retroactivity for civil claims, until the House Law and Justice Committee revised those changes. We will send a more thorough analysis of the changes in coming weeks.

Lansing heads to Mackinac Island next week for the Detroit Regional Chamber's Policy Conference, and with the chamber goes many legislators and lawmakers who are eager to put the finishing touches on the budget.

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

Marshall Plan

The Senate Appropriations committee voted favorably on the two vehicle bills for the Governor's Marshall Plan on Wednesday. SB 941, sponsored by Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell), would appropriate \$100 million in FY2019 from the Talent Investment Fund for work projects. SB 942 is sponsored by Sen. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart) and would allow the \$100 million payment into the Talent Investment Fund from the more than \$140 million balance in the Student Loan Operating Fund. Although the bill remains unchanged from the introduced version, the Chair indicated that both House and Senate Fiscal analysts are working through a number of concerns raised through testimony, and that the bills will be amended on the floor. The changes are yet to be finalized, but include many of the major concerns we've raised in testimony and private meetings with lawmakers.

Senate Committees Act on School Safety Bills

The Senate Education Committee favorably reported three school safety bills. As we summarized in last week's updates, there are several bills circulating in both the House and Senate. On Tuesday, the committee took action on the following bills:

- [SB 990](#): Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R- Portage) would require a district to consult with a local law enforcement agency before beginning construction or major renovation of a school building. We've already had several productive meetings with Sen. O'Brien and are working to amend the bill to address some of our concerns.
- [SB 991](#): Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) would require the governing body of a school to identify a school official as an emergency contact for the school and provide their information to the Department of State Police. This information would need to be submitted at least biannually.
- [SB 957](#): Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) would repeal the sunset on the Student Safety Act, which created the OK2SAY program.

The Senate Judiciary Committee reported the following bills:

- [SB 958](#): Sen. Darwin Booher (R-Evart) would add a requirement to the Revised School Code to require schools to report annually on attempted acts of school violence. School districts will provide reports to the Michigan Department of State Police. Reports will include attempted acts of violence on school grounds and threats off school grounds that are directed at school, staff or students. Both prevented and thwarted acts of violence must be included. Reports will include a description of the incident and how the incident was thwarted or prevented and exclude the name of the school or names of any individuals involved. The State Police will generate an annual report with this information and provide it to the School Safety Commission.
- [SB 959](#): Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) would add a requirement for the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards to include active shooter training that emphasizes gaining a tactical advantage and the rapid response of law enforcement officers. A commission will

promulgate rules to develop the minimum standards for active shooter training. It will include scenario-based training, formations with law enforcement officers and coordination with first responders.

- [SB 982](#): Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) would create an Office of School Safety within the Michigan State Police. In coordination with MDE, the Office of School Safety would apply for federal grants and create model programs for school safety. The bill would create and administer a grant program to disburse competitive school safety grants as appropriated by the Legislature to schools and intermediate school districts to improve the safety and security of school buildings, students, and staff.

Senate Education Committee Talks Educator Shortage

The Senate Education Committee also discussed legislation to address the state's educator shortage. Two House bills sponsored by Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston) were introduced earlier this year and were reported out of the House nearly unanimously.

HB 4609 allows individuals that have at least 60 hours of college credit to serve as a substitute teacher. The bill sponsor testified that, if passed, this bill would allow students that may be contemplating a career in teaching to have experience in that area. This also would allow for retirees to become substitutes. The 60 credits do not have to be completed in a designated subject area.

HB 4084, also sponsored by Rep. Tedder, eliminates the three credits in a reading disability diagnostics course requirement for professional certification. The bill sponsor indicated that this can be an additional barrier to some receiving their certificate due to the time teachers must dedicate to the course and also the cost. The sponsor discussed the need for this course to occur prior

to or during an individual's student teaching, rather than as a final step toward certification. The Chair indicated that the committee will vote on these bills during the next meeting. MASA supports both of the bills.

Additionally, Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) spoke to two bills he is sponsoring to expand the employment of non-certified teachers.

SB 909 would allow for a school district to employ non-certified teachers to teach career and technical education if the individual held a state-issued licence or certification in the subject matter they wished to teach. Currently districts can employ a non-certified teacher to teach computer science, a foreign language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, or robotics. During the first two years, the individual would have to participate in pedagogical skill development and an ongoing mentor program. Sen. Knollenberg testified that this legislation increases local control and allows for districts to make the best decisions for their schools. An amendment that will be forthcoming to the bill would expand the pedagogical skill development program used to meet this requirement for non-certified teachers to those that are accredited and recognized by the U.S. secretary of education. SB 910 amends the School Aid Act so that a district's or ISD's state aid payment is not reduced because they employ individuals that are non-certified teachers in the areas outlined in SB 909. The bills are tie-barred.

The Michigan Manufacturers Association testified in support of the bills, but would like to see an amendment to address the licensing requirement. SB 909 specifies that the individual wishing to teach would need to possess a state-issued license. MMA testified that state-issued licenses are not common for a number of professions, but many workers hold industry-recognized credentials; MMA would like the bill language to include those credentials.

Unlike the House bills, SBs 909 and 910 would allow an individual that holds a doctorate degree or tenured position to teach any subject at any level regardless of their teaching experience. MASA is concerned that there is no requirement that individuals under the bill have experience teaching children

and would allow for an uncertified teacher to remain in the classroom indefinitely without a path to certification. MASA is also concerned that individuals would not have experiences with students that have IEPs prior to classroom instruction. MASA does not yet have a position on these bills.

ICYMI: MDE Updates

MEMO #077-18

Academic Year 2018-19 Critical Shortage Disciplines for Employment of Retirees

On May 9, 2018, the governor signed HB-4422 (2018), amending Michigan Compiled Legislature 38.1361. Pursuant to that amendment the Michigan Department of Education has compiled a listing of the Academic Year 2018-19 Critical Shortage Disciplines for Employment of Retirees.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Critical_Shortage_623926_7.pdf

MEMO #076-18

Important – School Water Testing

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has begun a statewide initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water and community water supplies. The test is looking for a group of manmade chemicals called per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). MDEQ is taking this precautionary step of testing these drinking water sources to determine if public health actions are needed.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/School_Water_Testing_623924_7.pdf

MEMO #079-18

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has selected Michigan to receive NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$634,132 for School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP. These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment needed to serve healthier meals, meet the new nutritional standards with emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, improve quality, and expand access.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/NSLP_EAG_623930_7.PDF

