

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of School Administrators | May 4, 2018



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Summary

Discussions continued in House Law and Justice Committee this week on legislation in response to the acts perpetrated by Larry Nassar at Michigan State University. Testimony only was given on some of the educational elements of the package, including the bills that require employment record keeping and prohibit expelling or suspending students who report acts of sexual assault. MASA is monitoring this legislation closely and will report any action taken on the bills.

Our Government Relations and Policy Committee (GRPC) meets next week, so look for a recap from region representatives late next week.

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

Senate Discusses Level Dollar Funding

This week the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on HB 5355. The legislation is sponsored by Rep. Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) and proposes a change to the MPSERS Act to calculate the unfunded actuarial accrued liability contribution rate from a level dollar amount instead of a percentage of payroll. This is achieved by reducing the assumed rate of payroll growth from 3.5% to 0% by increments of .5% beginning in FY 18-19. HB 5355 also requires the UAAL contribution rate to be applied to payroll adjusted by the growth rate of payroll plus purchased services, instead of current practice that the rate be applied to payroll plus the growth in current operating expenditures.

The bill sponsor testified that this bill resulted after a review of the state's debt and calculation of payments. The GRPC took a neutral position on HB 5355 in February, due to the lack of information available regarding the fiscal impact of the

legislation, among other reasons.

The Senate Education Committee also discussed HB 5093 sponsored by Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain). This bill provides for matching employer contributions of up to 3% of pay into an employee's 401(k) account for employees that, in 2012, chose to freeze their defined benefit pension contributions and enroll in the defined contribution plan going forward. The bill sponsor testified that although this bill's financial implications are insufficient to the budget, this correction has a large impact on those teachers affected.

The Chair indicated that the committee will vote on the HBs 5355 and 5093 next week.

Marshall Plan

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to take testimony next week regarding the so-called Marshall Plan for Talent. MASA has been working with members and other education stakeholders to provide feedback on the plan, and will be working with the committee to provide testimony.

Some of the major points of concern we've heard from members across the state center on the competitive nature of the grants in the proposal. Many are worried that the grants are already promised or that well-resourced communities will be poised to receive grants while others will be left behind, further exacerbating the haves and the have-nots in these important areas. Members have suggested some sort of hybrid where the grants could be issued regionally and possibly based on need so that skilled trades programs can grow in areas where they exist and

expand into areas where they do not.

The proposal is a work in progress and we encourage folks to take a look at the full text of the legislation to see the [details](#).

House Committee Takes Action on School Safety

This week the House Appropriations Committee took action on the House School Safety Package. As we summarized in a previous update, the House introduced a number of bills following Gov. Rick Snyder's school safety plan. Several changes were made to the bill after previous testimony revealed a number of bipartisan concerns.

HB 5828, sponsored by Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare), was amended to make school safety grades confidential so that targeted acts based on gaps in security are prevented. The bill was also changed to remove the display of badges for optimal security schools. The bill now includes language that requires the School Safety Commission and Department of State Police to work together to contract inspectors.

HB 5830, sponsored by Rep. Robert Kosowski (D-Westland), was revised to remove the metal detectors requirement for new construction. The bill now will require new construction to meet 3 out of the 4 following safety measures: a schematic of building layouts, surveillance technology, remote door locks and reinforced entryways.

HB 5851, sponsored by Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain), requires annual

reports on acts of violence submitted by the district to the Michigan State Police. The bill has been amended to include a new definition of “act of violence” and “threat of violence” in order to further clarify what needs to be reported.

During committee, Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) proposed an amendment to HB 5852 to make all law enforcement officers complete active violence response training by the year 2020. The amendment was adopted.

Rep. Roger Victory (R-Georgetown Township) also offered an amendment during committee for HB 5830 to revise the threshold for construction projects to be \$250,000 rather than the proposed \$15,000. The amendment also included a provision that schools may obtain a waiver from the School Safety Commission to be exempted from these requirements. The amendment was adopted.