

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | June 1, 2018



In this update:

- Summary
- Marshall Plan Passes through Senate with Changes
- Senate Introduces School Safety Companion Bills

Summary

This week the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual Policy Conference on Mackinac Island. The majority of Lansing moved north, as both business and political leaders gathered to talk about the policy challenges facing our state. Therefore, it was a relatively light week in terms of session and legislative committees. We expect a very full agenda for the next two weeks before the Legislature adjourns for the summer.

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

Marshall Plan Passes through Senate with Changes

SBs 941 and 942, the vehicle bills for the Governor's Marshall Plan for Talent, were reported from the Senate this week with amendments. SB 941, sponsored by Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell), would appropriate \$100 million in FY 2019 from the Talent Investment Fund for work projects. If any funds are not utilized, they would be carried into FY 2020. On the Senate floor the bill was amended to address concerns raised in committee.

The majority of the changes were to the grant funding structure. The Senate-passed version of SB 941 now includes tiers for the distribution of the grant dollars. MDE would be required to develop a consolidated grant application that would allow for a streamlined application process. Districts would be able to submit one application for all available grants, including those for competency-based education, equipment and career navigators. The bill creates three tiers for awarding grants. Tier 1 would be defined as districts with more than 3,800 pupils; Tier 2 includes districts that have between 3,800 and 1,400 pupils; and Tier 3 includes districts with fewer than 1,400 pupils. SB 941 was also amended to require a minimum of 50% of grants to be awarded by June 1, 2019. Of that amount, 50% of the grants distributed must be to Tier 1 districts, 30% to Tier 2 districts and 20% to Tier 3. Districts would be able to apply either individually, with other districts or with their resident ISD.

Other major changes include:

- Work projects must be completed by FY 2021-22 rather than the initial proposal of FY 2020-23
- An increase to career navigator grants from \$10 million to \$14.5 million
- An additional \$9.9 million to create pupil experiences that result in competencies or credentials in high-demand fields, increasing this line item to \$29.9 million

- An increase from \$11.2 million to \$18.5 million for equipment grants
- An additional \$1 million to MDE for technical assistance in integrating the Michigan Merit Curriculum into competency-based programs

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.

The bills were sent to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration. It is likely that the bills will continue to be amended in a few areas, including the addition of increased reporting requirements for grant awardees. MASA has been working with lawmakers to address the concerns of the association and members and will continue to monitor any action the House takes on these bills.

Senate Introduces School Safety Companion Bills

The Senate introduced its version of bills based on the recommendations of the School Safety Reform Plan. MASA joined a coalition that includes law enforcement and education groups earlier this year to push for meaningful action on school safety. The coalition released a proposal that outlines effective strategies to prevent violence in the classroom in the short term and the long term. The proposal calls for a \$100 million grant program for school personnel and \$20 million for infrastructure grants.

SB 1030, sponsored by Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage), would create the school safety and student mental health grant programs. Grants would be facilitated through the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and are intended to provide funds to schools for school resources officers and school mental health professionals, as well as for school facilities. The House-introduced version of this bill is HB 5966 and is sponsored by Rep. Aaron Miller (R-Sturgis).

SB 1032, sponsored by Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), amends the child protection law to require mandatory reporters to also report when they learn of a

credible threat against a public or non-public school. A credible threat is considered to be a verbal or nonverbal threat that places individuals or a group in reasonable fear for their safety. Threats also include those delivered by electronic communication. Rep. Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) is the sponsor of the House version of this legislation, HB 5967.

MASA will be working with legislators and our members to advocate for the passage of these bills in both chambers.