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## Fwd: MASB's News From the Capitol

1 message

Charlie Glaes <cglaes@vicksburgschools.org>

Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 12:10 PM

To: Karen Hill <khill@vicksburgschools.org>

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From: **Jennifer Smith & Mitch Albers** <MASBgov@masb.org>

Date: Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 11:52 AM

Subject: MASB's News From the Capitol

To: cglaes@vicksburgschools.org



Dec 8, 2017

Brought to you by: [Collins & Blaha P.C. Attorneys at Law](#)

- **Senate Passes Education Savings Plan - Without Major Component**
- **Committee Considers Change to Seclusion and Restraint Law**
- **House Energy Committee Debates Expanding Electric Choice for Schools**
- **Reminder: Pass a Board Resolution Opposed to Concealed Carry in Schools**
- **REGISTER TODAY for NSBA's Advocacy Institute**

### Senate Passes Education Savings Plan - Without Major Component

On Tuesday, the Senate continued debate on [Senate Bills 544-549](#), which would create the "Enhanced Michigan Education Savings Program." The program would allow for parents to create educational savings accounts and receive an income tax credit for funds they deposit into such accounts. The funds could be used to purchase certain education services. The [Senate Fiscal Analysis](#) predicts a significant cost to local districts as well as the state, with a minimum of \$60 million just to create the system.

However, during debate of the package amendments were offered to Senate Bill 549 which creates the income tax deduction that the sponsor and leadership did not support. When it looked like the amendments could receive enough votes, the bill was pulled from the agenda. The bills that passed, Senate Bills 544-548 (by a vote of 25-14), would create the savings account program but not have any tax benefit to a parent.

The bills are now before the House Committee on Education Reform but it is unclear if the bill sponsor will continue to push them without the benefit of a tax deduction.

### Committee Considers Change to Seclusion and Restraint Law

The Senate Education Committee held a hearing on [House Bill 5126](#) on Tuesday. This bill amends last year's restraint and seclusion revision to exempt law enforcement officers who act as school resource officers from the definition of school personnel. This allows these individuals greater leeway when addressing situations in schools. It would not apply to security guards who are not licensed law enforcement officers. MASB supports the bill and there was no opposition to it indicated in committee. The committee is expected to vote on the bill next week.

### House Energy Committee Debates Expanding Electric Choice for Schools

On Tuesday, the House Energy Committee heard testimony on [House Bill 4708](#) which would allow a public or private school to purchase any or all of its electricity from an alternative electric supplier, regardless of whether the sales exceed 10% of the school's electric utility's average adjusted retail sales. Proponents argue that schools, and customers in general, who use an AES see significant savings on their energy bills, and that if schools are able to seek an AES regardless of the cap it will allow schools to spend less on overhead costs and more in the classroom and other expenses. Chairman Gary Glenn (R-Midland), has noted that he hopes to bring this legislation up for a final committee vote before session adjourns for the holiday season.

### Reminder: Pass a Board Resolution Opposed to Concealed Carry in Schools

On Nov. 8, the Senate passed [Senate Bills 584-586](#), which will allow individuals who obtain a special endorsement with his or her concealed pistol license to carry concealed weapons within schools, day care centers, bars, arenas, churches and libraries. It allows only private property owners and universities to make policies related to firearms on their property. School districts would not be able to set any policy stricter than state law.

We urge you to consider [passing a resolution in opposition to these bills](#) and share that resolution with your state representatives, senators and Gov. Rick Snyder. Also, let us know if your board does adopt a resolution. Additionally, we encourage [you to contact your State Representative](#) and urge a "no" vote on these bills.

[The bill package](#) is now before the House Committee on Judiciary. The chair has said he will not bring the bills up before the end of the year. This allows more time for you to contact your State Representative!

### REGISTER TODAY for NSBA's Advocacy Institute

NSBA's annual Advocacy Institute will be held Feb. 4 - 6, 2018, at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. [Registration is now open through the NSBA website](#) to join hundreds of board members from around the country in advocating for public education in our nation's capital. NSBA will also hold an [Equity Symposium](#) the day before, Feb. 3, as a separate event. NSBA recently announced the keynote speaker to end the conference will be [Cokie Roberts](#), a political commentator for ABC News and NPR.

Last year we were one of the two largest delegations in D.C.; sign-up today and help take Michigan's message to Washington.

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Charles Glaes, Superintendent  
Vicksburg Community Schools