


From: Charlie Glaes
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 3:35 PM
To: Karen Hill
Subject: FW: Legislative Update for the Week of October 3-7, 2011

From: masa-supt [<mailto:masa-supt@listserv.melg.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 3:34 PM
To: Charlie Glaes
Subject: Legislative Update for the Week of October 3-7, 2011

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Legislative Update for the Week of October 3-7, 2011

In this weekly update . . .

**Senate Passes Charter Cap Elimination
“Right-to-Teach” Introduced
House Committee Holds Hearing on Kindergarten Age Change
Governor Snyder Says Full Replacement of PPT Unlikely
MASA PPT Resolution Available
Part of School Board Elections Date Change Pass Senate**

Senate Passes Charter Cap Elimination

Thursday the Senate passed Senate Bill [618](#), a bill that eliminates the cap on the number of charter schools.

Before the bill passed, an amendment offered by Senator Randy Richardville was adopted that eliminated language in the original bill that allowed all school districts to hire teachers through a private entity. The Richardville amendment also requires charters to participate in state assessments, data collection systems, student growth models, accountability and accreditations systems, and other public comparative data collection requirements.

Democrats offered a number of amendments that were voted down. Senator Rebekah Warren’s amendment would have banned charters from contracting with for-profit management companies. Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood offered two amendments increasing charter school transparency and requiring some new charters to demonstrate

high student achievement. Also, Senator Colman Young offered a change that would strike language from the bill that eliminates property taxes for charter school buildings.

Attention now turns to the House of Representatives where the bill has been referred to the Education Committee.

Below is the roll call vote on final passage.

Senators Voting Yes—20

Booher	Hildenbrand	Meekhof	Proos
Brandenburg	Hune	Moolenaar	Richardville
Colbeck	Jansen	Nofs	Robertson
Emmons	Kahn	Pappageorge	Schuitmaker
Green	Marleau	Pavlov	Walker

Senators Voting No—18

Anderson	Gregory	Johnson	Smith
Bieda	Hansen	Jones	Warren
Casperson	Hood	Kowall	Whitmer
Caswell	Hopgood	Rocca	Young
Gleason	Hunter		

“Right-to-Teach” Introduced

As has been anticipated for weeks, Senator Arlen Meekhof introduced legislation to make it illegal to force teachers to pay dues to the unions that represent a school’s employees.

However, Senate Bill [729](#), the so-called “Right-to-Teach” bill, would only affect bargaining representatives that represent 50,000 or more personnel. That means the change would only impact MEA members.

Governor Snyder has indicated that he does not consider passage of this bill to be a priority. Stay tuned for updates on this bill.

House Committee Holds Hearing on Kindergarten Age Change

The House Subcommittee on School Aid Appropriations met this week to take testimony on House Bills [4513](#) and [4514](#) sponsored by Ray Franz. The bills would move up the age requirement for enrolling in kindergarten to require the child to be five years old by September 1, rather than December 1.

The bills allow parents to request a waiver allowing the child to enroll in a school year prior to the year the child would be eligible. The bills would mandate that principles form a committee consisting of a school administrator and two teachers to evaluate these waiver requests and evaluate the child’s readiness for kindergarten. These

evaluations would include skills assessments and interviews of the child and the child's parents.

Chairman Bill Rogers will likely request the bills be referred to the House Education Committee for any further consideration.

Governor Snyder Says Full Replacement of PPT Unlikely

The conversation continues about what form the likely attempt to repeal the state's personal property tax will take. This week Governor Snyder made comments to the Michigan Municipal League that indicates he will not support a full, constitutionally guaranteed, replacement of PPT revenue.

As reported by Gongwer News Service, the Governor said, "To be blunt, we can't do a program that would guarantee every single dollar to every single jurisdiction in that way in perpetuity." The Governor indicated that the repeal was still in its early planning phases.

MASA PPT Resolution Available

MASA has created a sample resolution that can be used as a template for adoption by school boards. This resolution encourages the governor and legislature to fully replace the revenues lost through proposed cuts to the personal property tax and to meet their Constitutional responsibility to the children of this state and focus on the perennial and structural deficit that plagues school finance in Michigan.

To download the sample resolution click [HERE](#).

Part of School Board Elections Date Change Pass Senate

On Thursday the Senate passed Senate Bill [427](#) which, together with House Bill [4005](#), would require all school board elections to be held in November of even-numbered years. The Senate did not vote on HB 4005.

HB 4005 was changed in committee from the originally introduced version to allow school board elections in November of odd-years for counties with populations less than 100,000.

Senators Voting Yes—23

Booher	Hune	Marleau	Richardville
Brandenburg	Jansen	Meekhof	Robertson
Colbeck	Johnson	Moolenaar	Rocca
Gleason	Jones	Pappageorge	Schuitmaker
Green	Kahn	Pavlov	Walker
Hildenbrand	Kowall	Proos	

Senators Voting No—15

Anderson	Emmons	Hopgood	Warren
Bieda	Gregory	Hunter	Whitmer
Casperson	Hansen	Nofs	Young
Caswell	Hood	Smith	

If you have question about any issue addressed in this update contact: Brad Biladeau bbiladeau@gomasa.org or David Randels drandels@gomasa.org