



News From the Capitol



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May 11, 2018

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One Week Left to Register for Legislative Conference!

[The MASA/MASB Legislative Conference](#) is fast approaching; there's only a week left to register! The event will take place at the **Radisson Hotel in Lansing on May 22**. Registration/breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. and the program begins at 8 a.m.

Simply [fill out and submit this form](#) to secure your spot. Remember to [make appointments with your State Senator and Representative](#) for the afternoon; if you need any assistance or have questions, please feel free to [contact us](#).

House Passes a School Safety Proposal; School Safety Coalition Proposal Introduced

On Tuesday, the House passed [House Bills 5828-5830 and 5850-5852](#), which would create certain requirements for school safety measures. The package passed the House with only one change, requiring the School Safety Commission to approve or deny a waiver sought by a school to the building requirements outlined in HB 5828, within 30 days of receiving the school's request.

This package would create the School Safety Commission within the Michigan State Police, which would establish school safety metrics. It also creates the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Fund, which will be used by the Commission to provide grants to improve school building

safety. The package also requires schools built or remodeled after Jan. 1, 2019 to meet additional safety requirements, and requires districts to annually report on prevented attempts or threats of violence made toward the school, school staff or students. Finally, HB 5850 would eliminate the sunset for OK2SAY, which is currently set to expire on Oct. 1, 2021. The package is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Education.

Also this week, a package of legislation was introduced encompassing the School Safety Coalition's proposal. House Bills [5966](#) and [5967](#), creates the Michigan School Safety Grant Act and requires the reporting of credible threats against schools. This legislation, backed by MASB and our coalition partners, will work to give schools access to funds to hire school resource officers, school mental health professionals, as well as grants to secure school buildings. The bills were referred to the House Committee on Law & Justice.

We will continue to push for consideration of our proposal. The coalition believes it could work in tandem with the House's existing proposal. Conversations continue as [we still have concerns](#) with HBs 5828-5830 as currently written.

Work-Based Learning Bill Clears Senate Committee

On Thursday, the Senate Committee on Economic Development and International Investment passed [House Bill 4106](#), which allows students in grades 9-12 to participate in internships and work experiences for high school credit so long as certain criteria are met. MASB supports the bill and it was passed without changes. HB 5676 is tied to HB 4106 and would ensure that pupils are still counted in membership when in an internship or work experience. Both bills were passed unanimously by the committee.

Prior to permitting a student to participate in either program, the school can first evaluate whether the experience is academically appropriate and can deny the student entering the program if the student is not on track to graduate in four years, is failing one or more courses or the experience is not consistent with the student's educational development plan, plus a few other reasons. The pupil may also be required to provide a reflection project upon completion of the internship or work experience.

The bill is now before the full Senate for consideration.

House Begins Hearings on Senate Sexual Misconduct Package

The House Committee on Law & Justice began testimony this week on [Senate Bills 871 and 872, and 875-877](#). This legislation will expand criminal and civil statutes of limitations for sexual misconduct crimes; allow for a period of civil retroactivity, dating back to 1997, to bring claims of criminal sexual conduct; as well as eliminate governmental immunity if the governmental entity was negligent in hiring, supervising or training the employee, or knew or should have known of the sexual misconduct and failed to report it to law enforcement. Testimony will likely continue on the package next week with a possible committee vote on both the House and Senate packages later this month.

MASB Signs Onto Letter to Protect the Children's Health Insurance Program

Earlier this week MASB [signed onto a letter](#) along with other school and medical professionals, to oppose the White House's proposal to cut \$7 billion from the Children's Health Insurance

Program. Part of the proposed cuts would come from cutting \$2 billion from the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund, which provides payments to states if they experience an unexpected surge in enrollment. The fund ensures that eligible children can continue to get covered. The White House also proposes to rescind \$5 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Fund. In Michigan, there are more than 100,000 children who receive insurance through MiChild, which is Michigan's version of CHIP. CHIP ensures that children can see doctors and receive treatment even when the parents may not qualify for Medicaid and should be protected.

Governor Signs Legislation Relating to Schools

On Thursday, Gov. Rick Snyder signed [House Bills 5530-5532](#) as Public Acts 144-146 of 2018, which would require the court to order that a student convicted of sexual assault who is convicted or adjudicated of criminal sexual conduct cannot attend the same school or ride the same bus as the victim, as well as allows a school to suspend or expel a student who commits criminal sexual conduct and requires that a convicted/adjudicated student be permanently expelled from the district.

Also signed this week was [HB 4422](#), which extends the sunset on the critical shortage list to July 1, 2021. The critical shortage list allows certain school retirees to work for a school without losing retirement benefits while providing certain services to schools in an identified critical shortage discipline. The bill also extends the retirement window by a year to cover those who retired between June 30, 2010, and Sept. 1, 2016.