



Legislative Update

Jennifer Smith, Director of Government Relations

2023 is Over

Local election results from Tuesday – Why Warren and Westland mattered
House split will go to 54-54

What does Sine Die mean?

Effective Date: February 12, 2024

2024 session schedule

Return Jan. 10, 2024

Special election dependent - at least 120 days after resignation

Sine Die is Early, So What?

Many priorities of the Governor and Legislative Democrats were not given immediate effect. They won't go into effect until 90 days after Sine Die

Moving the Presidential Primary date from March to February 27 (passed in March) required the legislature to adjourn before Nov. 26.

Timing issues

+ the election results

+ the tight majority margin in the House

Sine Die on Nov 14

What else is waiting on Sine Die?

- SB 12 – remove mandatory retention in the 3rd grade reading law
- SB 169 – require sharing new employee info with bargaining unit
- SB 395 – changes to the teacher and administrator evaluation law
- HB 4001 – phase out the retirement tax and increases the EITC
- HB 4007 – reinstate the prevailing wage law
- HBs 4044, 4354, 4356, 4820 – changes to PERA and collective bargaining
- HB 4166 – repeal the A-F rating system for schools
- HB 4233 – allow union dues to be deducted directly from paychecks
- HB 5021 – change retirement system default for new hires

Has Anything Gone Into Effect Yet?

SB 63 – allow sinking funds to be used to purchase and maintain buses (Aug 6)

SB 66 – require age appropriate materials related to sexual assault & harassment be provided to all students grades 6-12. (24/25 school year)

SBs 161-162 – allow reciprocity for out-of-state certifications for teachers and counselors (July 27)

HB 4120 – require distribution of comprehensive training materials for mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect (Sept 27)

HB 4752 – changes the rules around returning to work after retirement (Oct 10)

Let's Look a Little Deeper Into the New Laws

SB 12, Public Act 7 of 2023

Removes requirement that 3rd graders not reading at grade level be retained, unless a waiver is granted. Maintains rest of the law, including supports following a struggling reader to 4th grade.

SB 169, ordered enrolled

Requires a public employer to report new hires within 30 days to collective bargaining representative. Info must include name, personal and work address & phone, wages, among other things.

Let's Look a Little Deeper Into the New Laws

HB 4001, Public Act 4 of 2023

Phases out the income tax on retirement income, adjusts the percentage of income tax payable to the School Aid Fund and increases the Earned Income Tax Credit

HB 4007, Public Act 10 of 2023

Reenacts law that was repealed in 2018 requiring prevailing wages be paid on any construction project that includes state funds. Should not affect projects currently underway.

HB 4166, Public Act 34 of 2023

Repeals the A-F grading system for schools that was established in 2018. The School Index Score and Parent Dashboard remain.

Let's Look a Little Deeper Into the New Laws

HB 4233, Public Act 114 of 2023

Reverses the 2012 law that banned the deduction of union dues from the paychecks of public school employees.

HB 5021, ordered enrolled

Changes the default retirement option for new employees that do not elect a system from the 401k (tier 2) to the Pension Plus 2 (tier 1) beginning on July 1, 2024.

SB 395 – Teacher & Administrator Evaluations



- Change rating levels to effective, developing, needing support.
- Require 20% of the evaluation be based on student growth & assessments.
- If an administrator or superintendent receives an effective rating 3 consecutive times, they may move to biennial evaluations.
- If a teacher/building level administrator is rated as needing support, a review of the evaluation may be requested. If the review does not settle the issues, mediation may be requested.
- After 2 consecutive evaluations rated at needing support they may request binding arbitration.
- Superintendent contracts that entered in to, renewed or extended after July 1 must include an appeals process for evaluations.
- 3 consecutive needing support ratings still leads to dismissal.

Public Employee Relations Act Changes

HB 4044 – repeals the law freezing step increases upon the expiration of a contract.

HB 4820 – removes factors related to layoff and recall, adds teacher placement and states that seniority can't be the sole factor.

HB 4354 & 4356 – repeals 8 current prohibited subjects of bargaining. Including teacher placement, layoff and recall and discipline and discharge.

Issues To Watch

SB 463 - House Committee on Education

Would require a student to have completed the FAFSA form in order to graduate

SB 500 – Senate Floor

Codifies the free lunch and breakfast program for all students in the School Code to match what is included in the School Aid Budget

HB4671 – House Floor

Repeals the ban on schools starting before Labor Day

Issues Expected to Come Up

Open Meetings Act

Make updates to the Open Meetings Act, including allowing remote participation. Continuing to work with MML, MTA, and MAC.

ACT WorkKeys Test

Remove the requirement that all students take the ACT WorkKeys test and make optional or if a student requests to take it.

Dyslexia Screening Requirements

Ensure that K-3 reading screeners are designed to catch dyslexic students and proper supports are given.

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Legislature.mi.gov

For all bill information and details

Contact us!

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Questions?