



Pending Legislative Issues – Jan. 8, 2018

Note: this list includes issues MASB has taken a position on or are actively involved in and have seen movement in the Legislature.

SB 27 & SB 174 Status: Senate Committee on Education MASB Position: Support

Repeals the school redesign and reform office and the accreditation. The sponsor's intention is to figure out something to replace it with. Hearings continue in committee, and we expect to see a proposal this spring.

SB 94-95 Status: Senate Committee on Government Operations MASB Position: Oppose

Accelerates the phase out of the repeal of sales and use taxes on the difference in value between a new vehicle and a trade-in. This would reduce revenue by approximately \$5 million in the first year to the School Aid Fund, and would increase each year until phase out is complete. Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed the bills on July 25, 2017, but Senate leadership may still attempt a veto override.

SB 103-106 Status: House Committee on Judiciary MASB Position: Monitoring

Creates statewide definitions and policies for chronically absent and truant students. The bills would also prohibit suspension as a punishment for absenteeism. MASB has been working with stakeholders and sponsors to address the many technical and logistical concerns.

SB 271 Status: Senate Floor MASB Position: Support

Allows schools to start before Labor Day, however, they may not hold classes on Mondays or Fridays in August, nor the Friday before Labor Day. It is on the Senate floor and we are working to get it passed, but also trying to get the required four-day weekend down to three days.

SB 343 Status: House Committee on Workforce & Talent Development MASB Position: Oppose

Requires school boards to provide pupils with the most recent available information on "hot jobs" in the region as part of the process of developing an educational development plan. MASB opposes the bills because of concerns raised that pupils might look at the list of "hot jobs" in their area and become discouraged if none of those careers interest them. Also, the pamphlet would be given to students in seventh grade and, with the changing economy, those jobs may not be the "hot" ones, or even still exist, when that student graduates.

SB 344 Status: House Committee on Workforce & Talent Development MASB Position: Oppose

Establishes a STEM endorsement for students who complete specific requirements relating to math, science and other relevant classes in grades seven through 12. MASB opposed the bill because most of the courses required under the bill for the endorsement are already required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum. There was also concern it wouldn't assist students in career and technical education courses.

- SB 384* *Status: Senate Floor* *MASB Position: Support*
 Allows sinking funds to be used to purchase buses. We continue to push for a vote.
- SB 544-549, SCR 25* *Status: House Committee on Education Reform* *MASB Position: Oppose*
 Creates the "Enhanced Michigan Education Savings Program" to allow parents to set up an educational savings account, similar to the MESP accounts, to be used for any educational expenses at public schools. SB 549 also create an income tax deduction for anyone who contributes to an enhanced MESP, however, that bill did not pass the Senate. Under the proposal, MDE would determine which services and programs would be eligible to receive funds from these accounts and a district would have to create a list of services and their costs. SCR 25 urges the federal government to change tax policy to allow for these uses; something similar has been included in the newly passed federal tax bill.
- SB 574* *Status: House Floor* *MASB Position: Oppose*
 Allows public school academies to be eligible to receive a portion of funds obtained through a regional enhancement property tax levied by an Intermediate School District. A PSA would have to have been in existence on the count day used by the ISD to determine student membership and would have to be fully contained within the ISD borders. Cyber schools would also be eligible.
- SB 584-586, 366* *Status: House Committee on Judiciary* *MASB Position: Oppose*
 SB 584 would allow an individual who receives an endorsement on his or her concealed pistol license to be able to carry a concealed pistol in gun-free zones, including schools, libraries, community colleges, churches, bars and stadiums. SB 586 bans local school districts, ISDs, community colleges and public libraries from enacting or enforcing any ordinance related to firearms that is stricter than federal or state law. Local school district and ISD boards will still be able to implement policies affecting only their own students and employees. SB 366 would allow 18-21-year-olds to obtain a concealed pistol license.
- HB 4069* *Status: Senate Committee on Education* *MASB Position: Support*
 Lowers the threshold for substitute teaching from 90 to 60 hours of college credit or require an associate degree. MASB supports the bill because it only applies to substitute teachers and continues to allow a district to require that a substitute have 90 hours of college credit if they prefer.
- HB 4163* *Status: House Floor* *MASB Position: Monitoring*
 Adds calendar and schedule to the list of prohibited subjects of bargaining. MASB did not take a position on the bill as members were very split on it. However, we have suggested that it be amended to allow it to be bargained until a certain date (for example Aug. 1); if it is not settled, then management would set the calendar. The suggestion has not been taken. The bill remains on the House floor despite being on the agenda a couple of times. It does not appear there is enough support for it to pass.
- HB 4184* *Status: Senate Committee on Elections & Government Reform* *MASB Position: Oppose*
 Requires a member of an elected public body be physically present to be able to vote. If a person is participating in the meeting remotely and votes more than once in a year, it would be a violation of the Open Meetings Act. We were able to get some changes to the bill before it passed the House including fixing the language so that all elected bodies are treated the same, but will continue to work with the Senate to address additional concerns.

