



Pending Legislative Issues – Aug. 17, 2018

Note: this list includes issues MASB has taken a position on or are actively involved in and have seen movement in the Legislature since Jan. 2017.

SBs 27 & 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 expected to see a proposal last year, but other than language in the budget, these bills have not seen further action.

SBs 103-106 Status: House Committee on Judiciary MASB Position: Oppose

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 are also trying to get the required four-day weekend down to three days.

SB 373 Status: Senate Committee on Michigan Competitiveness MASB Position: Support

Allows design-build construction firms to bid on school construction projects.

SB 384 Status: Senate Floor MASB Position: Support

Allows sinking funds to be used to purchase buses. We continue to push for a vote.

SBs 544-548, HB 5428, SCR 25 Status: House Floor 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 creates 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.

SBs 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 laws. 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- to 21-year-olds to obtain a concealed pistol license.

SB 661 *Status: House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure* *MASB Position: Support*
Makes updates to the Pupil Transportation Act regarding school buses. Updates include removing provisions about the placement of speakers, clarifying the use of buses by nonprofit groups and clarifying who can provide training for school bus drivers (same as HB 6028).

SBs 784, 786 & 827 *Status: House Committee on Judiciary* *MASB Position: Support*
Allows parents and guardians to file Do-Not-Resuscitate orders with schools and require them to be kept on file. Clarifies the law regarding the enforcement of such orders at schools.

SB 795 *Status: Senate Floor* *MASB Position: Oppose*
Bans time taken as leave to handle union activities from being counted toward retirement. MASB opposes because this would be difficult for districts to track and allowing union leave time is a local decision.

SB 796 *Status: Senate Floor* *MASB Position: Oppose*
Bans a school employee from being paid for time taken as leave to handle union issues. MASB opposes because this time is already reimbursed from the local unions and allowing union leave time is a local decision.

SB 882 *Status: House Committee on Education Reform* *MASB Position: Support*
Would allow school boards to enter closed session to discuss the details of school security plans. MASB supports but is also urging a bill exempting this information from the Freedom of Information Act.

SB 885 *Status: Senate Committee on Education* *MASB Position: Support*
Would allow current waivers to start school before Labor Day to be permanently in place until a district requests to end it. This has received a first hearing in committee.

SBs 909-910 *Status: House Committee on Education Reform* *MASB Position: Support*
Would allow noncertified teachers to teach in CTE classes with certain restrictions and removes the penalty in the School Aid Act for using noncertified teachers. MASB has opposed other bills similar to these in this session but this included provisions that addressed many of our concerns. However, HBs 5141-5142 addressed this same issue and were signed into law as Public Acts 235 & 236 of 2018, so further movement on these bills does not seem likely.

SB 924 *Status: Senate Floor* *MASB Position: Oppose*
Amends the definition of private security police to include a licensee that is engaged by a legally organized entity, which includes school districts. Also, it extends arrest authority to an officer of private security police engaged by a legally organized entity. The State Police and other law enforcement agencies have raised numerous concerns with this bill.

SB 980 *Status: House Committee on Education Reform* *MASB Position: Oppose*
Eliminates the cap on the number of dual enrollment credits students may enroll in. Current law allows districts and postsecondary institutions to enter into agreements to waive limits, however, that is up to each individual district.

- SB 982* *Status: House Committee on Appropriations* *MASB Position: Support*
 Establishes the Office of School Safety within the Department of State Police. The office would work with the Michigan Department of Education to create model practices for school safety, as well as seek and apply for federal funds relating to school safety and reducing violence in schools and create and administer a grant program to disburse competitive school safety grants as appropriated by the Legislature. The Office would also offer training to school staff on school safety.
- SB 983* *Status: House Committee on Appropriations* *MASB Position: Support*
 Requires school districts, ISDs and PSAs to develop emergency operation plans for each school building it operates by Jan. 1, 2020. It also specifies items that Emergency Operations Plans would have to address, including threats of school violence and attacks. Districts with current school safety information policies will only need to update them, not create new ones. All plans must be reviewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, and then biennially.
- SB 990* *Status: House Committee on Appropriations* *MASB Position: Support*
 Requires school districts, ISDs or PSAs to consult with a law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the district or PSA on new construction or major renovation plans before beginning the project.
- SB 991* *Status: House Committee on Appropriations* *MASB Position: Support*
 Requires that at least biennially, school districts share current emergency contact information with the State Police. The designated staff must be able to receive information through the contacts given at any time.
- SB 1032* *Status: Senate Floor* *MASB Position: Support*
 Creates a mandatory reporter law for credible threats of school violence. A threat could be verbal, nonverbal or a combination of the two, including a threat delivered by electronic communication. To be deemed credible it must place the individual or group of individuals who are the target of the threat in reasonable fear for his or her safety, the safety of the group or the safety of others. The person making the threat must have the apparent ability to carry out the threat to cause said harm. This is part of the school safety reform package created by MASB and our coalition partners.
- 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.

