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Legislative Update

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State-funded Mobile Panic Alert Systems Proposed for Schools

A two-bill package was introduced in the Senate that would require public and private schools to, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, implement a mobile panic alert system for use in security emergencies.

Senate Bill 76 stipulates that funding under Section 97n of the School Aid Act would be used to pay for the systems. **SB 76** calls for allocating $6.7 million in the 2024-2025 School Aid Fund (General Fund) to schools for implementing a system in each school.

The bills also stipulate that a system implemented by a school must:

- Connect with local and state law enforcement, school faculty and staff, and first responders to ensure real-time coordination
- Integrate with 911 through landline activations, mobile applications, and mobile phone calls



Schools with a panic alert system already in place would be allowed to request an exemption from using the state's procured system. Failure of schools to comply or to receive an exemption would result in being deemed ineligible for school safety grants from the Department of State Police.

SBs 76-77 were referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Bill Calls for Firearm Education in Middle, High School

Senate Bill 58 calls for the Michigan Department of Education, in consultation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to create a model program for training 6th-12th graders on the safe storage, handling, and cleaning of weapons and ammunition. No live rounds or weapons would be brought onto school grounds during the training, led by DNR instructors .

The bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Governor Announces $3B Roading Funding Plan



On February 10, Governor Whitmer unveiled her proposal for generating **$3 billion in long-term spending for roads**, which includes a mix of new and existing revenue.

Highlights of her plan include a new tax on marijuana, similar to the tax on tobacco products; assuring all fuel taxes paid at the pump go to roads; redirecting $500 million in existing spending; and a mix of to-be-determined tax and fee increases (possibly increasing the Corporate Income Tax, establishing a new tax on digital electronic advertising, and/or increasing the fees for heavy trucks).

In January, House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland) outlined his updated road funding plan, coming in at $3.1 billion. Speaker Hall's proposal includes some similar provisions to those put forth by the Governor but would rely more on the redirection of existing revenue instead of raising new revenue.

Both the Governor's and Speaker Hall's plans ensure funding for schools would be made whole, so the redirection of fuel tax revenue to roads wouldn't reduce funding for schools.

Stay tuned for updates on negotiations.