DECEMBER 20, 2024

Legislative Update

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House Adjourns; Senate Marathon Session Still Underway

After several days of turmoil, including a failure to reach the necessary quorum for voting in the House on December 13, 18, and 19, the House adjourned around 2:15 pm on December 19. All 54 Republican members and one Democrat were absent. Although the chamber is scheduled to reconvene on December 31, no additional work is expected. Left on the table were more than 200 Senate-passed bills.



The Senate also struggled to meet quorum on December 18 but successfully convened at 10 am on December 19 with all Senators present. As of 1 pm today, December 20, that session is still underway and expected to last most of the day.

So far during the marathon session, the Senate has passed 40 House-approved bills that are now on their way to the Governor, including:

- Charter school transparency requirements (**HBs 5231-5234**)
- Healthcare cost limits for public school and government employees (**HB 6058**)
- Required parental notification of safe firearm storage, starting October 1, 2025 (**HBs 5450-5451**)
- Standardizing response plan terminology used during school emergencies and requiring schools to create a behavioral health threat assessment and management team (**HBs 4095-4096**, **5549**, **5659-5660**)

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Looking Ahead to the 2024-2025 Legislature

When the 103rd Michigan Legislature convenes in January, Republicans will take control of the House gavel. Leading the 58-52 majority will be Speaker-elect Matt Hall (R-Richland), and Representative Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton) will take over the Minority Leader position.

Among the 110 House members will be 12 new legislators, nine of which are Republican.

Democrats will continue their control in the Senate, with a slim majority made even more slim due to Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Bay City) winning Michigan's 8th U.S. House District in the November 2025 election. Governor Whitmer will have to call a special election at some point in 2025 to fill McDonald-Rivet's state Senate seat.

Legislative committee assignments will be announced early in 2025.



JANUARY 10

Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference

On Friday, January 10, the State Treasurer, State Budget Director, Senate Fiscal Agency Director, and House Fiscal Agency Director will convene at the first-of-the-year Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference to establish official state revenue forecasts.

Discussion will focus on financial projections for:

- The remainder of Fiscal Year 2025 (ends September 30, 2025);
- The upcoming FY 2026 (begins October 1, 2025); and
- FY 2027 (October 1, 2026-September 30, 2027)

The January conference begins the state's annual budget process, laying the foundation for the Governor's executive budget recommendation to be presented before the Legislature in February. A similar conference is held in May, when adjustments to the forecasts are announced in preparation for finalizing the upcoming fiscal year state budget.

The January 10 conference will be available to watch on **House TV** and **Senate TV**.

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Any bills that that haven't cleared both chambers by the end of today will be "dead" and must be reintroduced in 2025 to be considered by the next Legislature.

Bills of interest to K-12 education that are dead include:

- **SB 285:** Called for mandatory kindergarten.
- **SB 354**: Called for giving the Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to issue a Michigan teaching certificate to individuals who hold or are eligible to hold a valid teaching certificate in another state or from a federally recognized Indian tribe.
- **SB 463**: Would have made completing the FAFSA a requirement for high school graduation.
- **SB 995**: Proposed extending the MI Future Educator Student Teacher Stipend Program to include preschool teachers.
- **SB 1142**: Called for reducing the number of professional development hours that school counselors would need for renewing credentials.
- **SBs 1145-1147**: Called for providing age-appropriate instruction on institutional and societal discrimination, as well as the history of marginalized populations.

In total, the 2023-2024 Michigan Legislature introduced 3,494 bills; of those, 492 have, as of December 20, been signed into law as public acts—321 in 2023 and 171 in 2024.

Additional bills are awaiting Governor Whitmer's approval, such as **HB 5649**, which calls for public high schools to offer at least one computer science course focused on the study of computers, algorithmic processes, and teaching students how to create new technologies. This requirement will go into effect with the 2027-2028 school year.