



***Middle Cities Education Association
July 2, 2001***

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Each legislative session many education-related bills are introduced in the state legislature. Some of the bills receive immediate media focus in spite of their unlikelihood to receive serious consideration. MCEA staff monitors legislation in the House and Senate education committees, appropriations and other committees considering legislation that impacts education. Thus far in the 91st Legislative Session, over 75 education-related bills have been introduced, including the following: (Shaded bills indicate bill is moving through the process.)

SENATE BILLS

SB4 **Crimes** (S. Johnson, R-Royal Oak) - Notification of school district and state when school employee is convicted of certain crimes

SB5 **Emergencies** (S. Johnson, R-Royal Oak) - Provides for equipping classrooms with direct phone links to local police and fire departments.

SB10 **Ten Commandments** (D. Shugars, R-Portage) - Allows a school to display Ten Commandments.

SB29 **Municipal Finance Act** (J. Emmons, R-Big Rapids) - Revises Michigan Municipal Finance Act. [Passed the Senate and the House; signed by Governor as P.A.30, effective 3/1/2002.]

SB96 **Coaches' Salaries** (D. Jaye, Wash. Twp) - Limits pay of coaches in colleges and universities.

SB157 **Retirement** (J. Gougeon, R-Bay City) - Revises benefit provisions for school employees working after retirement.

SB213 **Substitute Teachers** (S. Johnson, R-Royal Oak) - Allows school district to contract with employment agency for subs.

SB226 **ISD Academies** (K. DeBeaussaert, D-New Baltimore) - Public school academy employees authorized by ISDs to be covered by ISD collective bargaining agreement.

SB252 **Charter School Cap** (L. Bennett, R-Canton) Removes cap on public school academies authorized by universities.

SB274 **Prevailing Wage** (G. Steil, R-Grand Rapids) - Eliminates the requirement that public schools comply with prevailing wage act.

SB341 **School Property Tax** (M. Goschka, R-Brant) - Provides for adjusting School Education Tax to provide credit against taxes levied under certain circumstances. [Passed both houses and awaits Governor's signature].

SB358 **School Construction** (B. Hammerstrom, R-Temperance)

Requires that construction, renovation, etc. of schools be under the construction code and be subjected to all necessary inspections.

SB363 **Academic Eligibility** (D. Jay, R-Wash. Twp.) - Establishes academic requirement to participate in sports.

SB365 **Education Boundary Commission** (L. Stille, R-Spring Lake) - Establishes education boundary commission to study lines for schools, ISDs and workforce development boards.

SB438-439-440 **School Elections** - Senate counterparts to HB4628-29 revising school election dates, frequency and administration by local governmental unit.

SB462 **Long Term Care** (D. Shugars, R-Portage) - Provides for withholding from pension for long term care policy.

SB473 **Priority Schools** (L. Stille, R-Spring Lake) - Major legislation in package of bills to address failing schools. Creates criteria to identify and establishes a State Education Improvement Board to oversee accountability measure for identified lowest performing "priority" schools. [Passed in Senate; awaits House consideration.]

SB474-475 **Tax Credits** (S. Johnson, L. Bennett) - Provides income tax or single business tax credits for donations or services provided to priority schools. [Passed in Senate; awaits House consideration.]

SB476 **ISD Takeover** (B. Emerson, D-Flint) - Provides for a petition and election process to turn over control of a school district to the intermediate school district. [Passed in Senate; awaits House consideration.]

SB522 **School Dropout Age** (A. Smith, D-Salem Twp.) – Changes the age of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18; provides work-study alternatives for ages 16-18.

HOUSE BILLS

HB4103 **Ballot Campaigning** (J. Koetjc, R-Grandville) - Prohibits promoting ballot issues on public school grounds during school hours.

HB4190 **Golden Apples** (D. Hart, R-Rockford) - Revises eligibility requirements to allow schools with 4th and 5th grades at different buildings to be eligible for awards. *[Passed the House; merged into HB4371.]*

HB4280 **Declaration of Independence** (R. Gosselin, R-Troy) - Encourages schools to teach students the Declaration of Independence.

HB4293 **Sports Seasons** (C. Kolb, D-Ann Arbor) - Requires that high school sport seasons for men and women coincide.

HB4297 **Inclement Weather Emergency** (P. Lockwood, D-Fenton) - Allows school district to count as a pupil instruction day, school closing due to weather emergency by other than school authority. [Currently in hearing before House Education Committee.]

HB4318 **Counselor Ratio** (P. Gielegem, D-Clinton Twp.) - Requires public schools to maintain a 300:1 student-counselor ratio.

HB4344 **Administrative Certification** (P. Godchaux, R-Birmingham) - Provides for voluntary school administrator certification.

HB4371 **School Aid Bill** (M. Shulman, R-West Bloomfield) – Revise school aid budget. [Passed in the House; awaits Senate consideration.]

HB4380 **Home Schools/Non Public** (P. DeWeese, R-Williamston) - Revises State Aid Act and provides for services for nonpublic and home schooled students by public schools.

HB4381 **Evolution** (R. Gosselin, R-Troy) - Requires state board to revise curriculum standards regarding teaching of evolution.

HB4384 **ISD Investing** (W. Kuipers, R-Holland) - Allows ISDs to have same mutual fund investment options as local school districts. *[Passed the House and Senate and awaits Governor's signature].*

HB4387 **Charter School Reporting** (M. Switalski, D-Roseville) - Requires public school academy contractors.

HB4393 **Equity Payments** (J. Gilbert, R-Algonac) - Provides for equity payments for 2002-2003 for certain school districts.

HB4398 **School Snow Days** (R. Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) - Allows for the carryover of unused snow days.

HB4414 **School Election Workers** (P. Birkholz, R-Saugatuck) – Allows any qualified elector in the county, not just the school district, to serve as an inspector in school elections. [Reported out of House Elections Committee.]

HB4428 **Substitute Teacher Qualifications** (R. Richardville, R-Monroe) - Includes community college credits in the 90 hours requirement to sub.

HB4429 **Appointed Board Members** (T. Meyer, R-Bad Axe) - Includes appointed board members as part of a majority vote requirement. *[Passed the House and Senate; Governor signed; P.A.27, immediate effect.]*

HB 4433 **Testing Delay** (W. Callahan, D-St. Clair Shores) - Delays for one year the implementation of annual testing requirement for grades 1-5.

HB 4435 **Expelled Students** (R. Bogardus, D-Davison) - Provides for a disciplinary education program for expelled students.

HB4447 **School Employee Felons** (J. Allen, R-Traverse City) - Requires summary suspension of certification upon conviction of certain crimes.

HB4456 **Farm Tax** (J. Gilbert, R-Algonac) – Creates an alternative agriculture tax in lieu of property taxes. [Reported out of Land Use Committee and on House floor.]

HB4488 **Teacher Technology Initiative** (M. Pumford, R-Newaygo) - Allows ISDs to participate in TTI grant program

HB4491 **Labor Day** (S. Shackleton, R-Sault Ste. Marie) - Eliminates the sunset on the Friday before Labor Day being a school holiday. [Approved by House; sent to Senate for consideration.]

HB4496 **Emergency Plan** (A.T. Frank, D-Saginaw) - Requires emergency management plan for each school.

HB4503 **Teacher's Children** (R. Basham, D-Taylor) - Allows children of teachers to attend school in district in which parent teaches.

HB4541 **Substitute Teachers** (J. Gilbert, R-Algonac) - Reduces college credit requirement to sub from 90 to 60 hours.

HB4577 **Parent Teacher Conference Days** (Larry Julian, R-Lennon) - Allows up to 3 hours per year of conferencing to count as instruction time.

HB4582 **Sinking Fund** (Judy Scranton, R-Brighton) - Expands the purposes for which sinking fund revenues may be used to include sewer and water projects.

HB4585 **Retired Counselor Employment** (Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) - Exempts salary earned by retired counselor from some provisions of MPSERS.

HB4617 **School Child Care Center** (Ken Bradstreet, R-Gaylord) - Amends School Code to accommodate exception of school child care program from provisions of P.A.116, Child Care Licensing Act, relative to fire inspections. [Approved by House; under discussion in Senate Families, etc. Committee.]

HB4618 **Use Of Summer School Funds** (Gerald VanWoerkman, R-Muskegon) - Allows district to use Sec.32(g) summer school grant monies for before and after school instruction in Grades 1-4 reading and math.

HB4619 **School Child Care Center** (J. Voorhees, R-Grandville) - Exempts School Child Care Center from provisions of P.A.116, child care licensing act, administered by Dept. of Consumer and Industry Services. [Approved by House; under discussion in Senate Families, etc. Committee.]

HB4620 **Criminal Checks** (S. Shackleton, R-Sault Ste. Marie) - Amends School Code to require criminal history background check for all educational employees.

HB4628-29 **School Election Consolidation** (A. Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills) - Removes school elections from School Code and requires school elections to be administered by local government unit, changes dates of school elections, limits number, etc. [Discussions held in House Redistricting and Elections Committee.]

HB4630 **Parent Contracts** (W. Kuipers, R-Holland) - Encourages school district and parents to enter into contract relative to involvement. [Approved by House and Senate; signed by Governor and enacted with immediate effect as P.A. 29.]

HB4672 **Medications** (J. Hansen, D-Dexter) - Revises School Code to include provisions for dispensing medications to students.

HB4687 **School Site Planning** (M. Bishop, R-Rochester) - Requires that a school district develop an infrastructure improvement plan with the municipality when purchasing a school site or constructing a new school.

HB4728 **Special Ed Bus Aides** (B. Brown, D-Dearborn Hts.) - Requires an aide on school buses transporting special education students.

HB4760 **Ed-Flex Contracts** (T. Meyer, R-Bad Axe) - Allows a school district to contract with State Superintendent to seek waivers of School Code and/or state Aid Act provisions as part of a performance contract to improve student achievement. [Reported out of House Ed. Committee and awaits floor consideration.]

HB4789 **Retiree Benefits** (J. Allen, R-Traverse City) – Changes sunset to 2006 of legislation allowing school retirees to return to work in emergency areas without losing retirement benefits. [Passed House and Senate, signed by Governor, P.A.30.]

HB4800 **Charter Schools** (W. Kuipers, R-Holland) – Raises the 150 cap on university-authorized public school academics by 50 each of next 2 years and 25 each year thereafter. [Reported out of House Education Committee and awaits floor consideration.]

HB4824 **Building & Site Sinking Funds** (D. Hart, R-Rockford) - Expands upon permissible expenditures from Sinking Fund Millage. [Reported out of House K-12 Appropriation Sub Committee.]

HB4844 **Truancy** (G. Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods) – Requires adoption of truancy policies by school districts and local prosecutors. [Currently in hearings in House Education Committee.]

HB4874 **Directory Information** (T. Stamas, R-Midland) – Exempts school districts from F.O.I.A. requests for directory information. [Currently in hearings in House Civil Law and Judiciary Committee.]

HB4876 **School Bond Loan** (R. Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – Revises School Bond Loan Fund provisions for school district borrowing. [Reported out of House K-12 Appropriations Sub Committee.]

HB4877 **Infrastructure Grants** (R. Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – Provides funding to assist needy districts with payment of interest and grants for infrastructural needs. [Reported out of House K-12 Appropriations Sub Committee.]

HB4879 **School Bus Use** (C. Brown, R-Sturgis) - Allows for the lease of school buses to transport agricultural workers. [Approved by House; sent to Senate for consideration.]

It is our intention to update the status of legislation on a weekly basis and report the information on our website at www.middlecities.org. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or need additional information on legislative issues.