



MEMORANDUM

To: Gary Kellan
From: Matt Solak
Date: December 22, 2020
Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

Overall State Issues

COVID-19

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has extended its emergency order that enacted a three-week pause on many activities and work functions. The order continues to limit residential and non-residential gatherings. Most notably bars and restaurants will be open for outdoor dining, carry-out and delivery only until January 15th. The continued closures have received much push back from industry and Republican legislative leaders. The industry has stressed this will result in the permanent closure of many restaurants. Most other businesses that were closed during the three week “pause” will reopen. The Governor’s justification for this was that those businesses were conducive to requiring patrons to keep masks on while patrons of restaurants need to remove masks when eating.

State Passes COVID Relief Supplemental

Before adjourning for the year, the Legislature passed a supplemental budget bill in response to COVID related issues. The state's unemployment fund will receive a \$220 million boost from the state's General Fund to prevent businesses from potentially needing to pay an extra fee to keep the fund afloat.

Additional funding includes:

- A \$45 million program that will give workers left unemployed through the last round of government-mandated shutdowns a \$1,650 check from the state Treasury.

- \$63.5 million in “survival grants” for small businesses forced to shut down due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- \$115.3 million to address nursing shortages, including an extension of the pay increase for direct-care workers.
- \$79.1 million to expand virus testing and vaccine distribution, including money to revamp up testing of teachers.
- \$10 million for hospitals to hire temporary staff. Hospitals also are getting \$3.3 million to house COVID-positive nursing home residents.

Legislature Adjourns

The 100th session of the Legislature ended on December 23 when both chambers adjourn sine die. The 101st session will gavel in at noon January 13, 2021.

Airport Issues

Additional Federal Support

MAAE leadership contacted Michigan’s Congressional Delegation asking for support of a bipartisan and bicameral \$908 billion coronavirus relief framework that proposed \$45 billion for transportation including funding for airports and airlines. The legislation has passed both legislative chambers and heads to President Trump for signature.

The transportation funding provisions include:

- \$2 billion for airports and airport-based businesses.
- \$15 billion to cover airline salaries and benefits through the end of March.
- \$1 billion for airline contractor payrolls.
- \$1 billion in relief funds to Amtrak, aimed at helping the national passenger railroad avoid further layoffs and furloughs of its workers.
- \$14 billion was set aside for transit systems which have experienced major cuts in service and layoffs.
- The bill also sets aside \$2 billion for the bus industry and \$10 billion for state highways.

Twelve of Michigan's 14 U.S. House members supported the bill. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit) and U.S. Rep. Justin Amash (R-Cascade Twp.) cast the no votes. Legislative Democrats have already stated additional funding will be needed after President-elect Biden takes office. It is unclear how much more money Senate Republicans will want to support in relief.