



MEMORANDUM

To: Gary Kellan
From: Matt Solak
Date: July 2021
Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

Overall State Issues

Governor Signs Historic K-12 Budget that Eliminates Per-Pupil Funding Gap

Before leaving for summer recess the Legislature passed a historic K-12 budget valued at \$17.1 billion which eliminated the 27-year-old per-pupil funding gap. The budget was signed by Governor Whitmer.

This budget was the initial leaf to fall in Michigan's budgeting process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, featuring \$723 million to wipe out the gap between minimum and maximum state foundation allowances by setting each at \$8,700 per-pupil -- a \$589 boost from the minimum allowance for the current year.

A majority of K-12 public schools kicked off their next fiscal years on July 1, making this budget a priority. The remaining budgets for the state have yet to be finalized and will continue to be negotiated when the Legislature returns in September.

Legislature Repeals 1945 Emergency Management Law

While largely symbolic, the Michigan Legislature formally repealed the 1945 Emergency Powers of the Governor Act. This was the law Governor Whitmer used to issue her rolling executive orders for the first seven months of the COVID-19 pandemic until it was ruled unconstitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court in October 2020. The repeal of the Act come via a citizen's petition organized by Unlock Michigan, an organization against many of the Governor's emergency orders. Citizen's petition drives go directly to the Legislature for an up or down vote and are not subject to the Governor's veto. Unlock Michigan has launched a second petition

drive to limit to 28 days how long state and local health officials' orders can last without additional approvals from the Legislature.

State Senate Special Election Results

In the fall of 2020 two Republican State Senators ran for countywide office. Both were successful in their elections forcing them to resign from the Michigan State Senate and leaving the State Senate with two vacancies.

The August 3rd primary was the first step in filling those vacancies. In the 28th Senate District, which covers the moderately-rural and suburban neighborhoods surrounding Grand Rapids two-term State Representative Mark Huizenga (R-Walker) squeaked through a nail-biter of a Republican primary election. He defeated former State Representative Kevin Green by 174 votes and current State Representative Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming) by 259 votes.

The other vacant district was the 8th Senate District which consists of coastal and northern Macomb County. In that race two-term State Representative Douglas Wozniak (R-Shelby Twp.) won the primary by 1,649 votes, 35.7% to 29.5% over State Representative Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Twp.).

Both of these seats are considered solid Republican seats and will give the Senate Republicans a 22-16 advantage in the State Senate after the completion of the November General Election.

Airport Issues

House Supplemental Budgets Support Airport Programs

The Michigan House of Representatives has passed two supplemental budget bills HB 4419 and HB 4420. HB 4420 included \$25 million for PFAS remediation grants. Boilerplate language in the budget requires that \$15 million be allocated to municipal airports and independent airport authorities for costs of monitoring and additional testing related to PFAS.

HB 4419 included appropriations of federal funding for airports to aid in their COVID response.

General Aviation Airports will receive \$2.0 million in federal CRRSAA funds to provide economic relief for Michigan's general aviation airports. Funding would support airport operations and is provided at 100% federal share. No non-federal match is required.

Primary Airports will receive \$68.0 million in federal CRRSAA funds to provide economic relief for Michigan's primary airports. Funding would support airport operations and is provided at 100% federal share. No nonfederal match is required.

Neither supplemental budget has received approval from the Michigan Senate or the Whitmer Administration.

Peer-to-peer Carsharing Legislation (HB 4915-HB 4917) Introduced

On May 25, bipartisan legislation was introduced to regulate peer-to-peer carsharing service companies. These companies include Turo, Getaround and Maven. Peer-to-peer carsharing (also known as person-to-person carsharing and peer-to-peer car rental) is the process whereby existing car owners make their vehicles available for others to rent for short periods of time..

These companies may be operating without a service agreement at some airports in likely violation of those airport's ground transportation regulations. The MAAE Board has taken a position of support on this legislation as the bills require these companies to enter into operational agreements with airports.

MAAE worked previously on a similar issue when Lyft and Uber wanted to operate on airport property without complying with any type of ground transportation agreement with airports or any payment to the airport like other ground transportation companies.

EGLE offers clean fuel grants to upgrade Airport Equipment

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced a three-part funding opportunity that totals \$30 million for the replacement of commercial, mass transit and transportation support vehicles that move products with new models, including electric, alternative fuel and diesel vehicles.

The [request for proposals](#) covers medium and heavy-duty local freight trucks, transit and shuttle buses, freight switchers, tug and ferry boats, port cargo handling equipment, forklifts and airport ground support equipment. Funds will also be available in the future to install shore power for vessels that operate within the Great Lakes. The request for proposals information is posted on the [Fuel Transformation Program](#) website.

Airport ground support equipment, port cargo handling equipment, and forklifts. \$5 million available. Replacements must be electric vehicles or equipment. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$3 million. EGLE is planning to begin accepting proposals for these projects in early 2023.