



MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Smigelski

From: Matt Solak

Date: March 2023

Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

Legislative Session Moves to Historical Democratic Priorities

After, the passage of two supplemental bills which included huge economic incentives for targeted projects the Governor and the Democratic led Legislature.

March and early April dealt with repealing many of the restrictions still in statute dealing with reproductive rights, inclusion of LGBTQ in the Elliot Larson Civil Rights Act, repeal of the pension tax and expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, repeal of right to work and the return of prevailing wage on all government projects and finally dealing with gun safety measures.

Most “non-emergency” policies took a back seat to these major priorities. Now, the legislature will focus on appropriations and passing the state budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Standing policy committees will have more time to meet and begin working on their subject matter moving forward.

SB 22 Airport Firearm Changes

Senator John Damoose has reintroduced his legislation (SB 22) which updates the federal statute referenced in the state’s airport sterile area statute.

The Representative introduced the legislation in response to Jim Linderman, Emmet County Prosecutor, expressing the need to update the statue reference because he is unable to prosecute individuals who are found to be carrying firearms in airport sterile areas, airport sterile areas being the parts of airports beyond the pre-boarding security screening area.

Senator Damoose introduced this legislation in the House last session but it did not receive a vote in the House due to lack of session days. The MAAE supported the legislation last session and has met with Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Geiss asking for a hearing on the legislation.

Changes to the Aeronautics Code

The MAAE has been working with the Aeronautics Department on technical changes that are needed in the State Aeronautics Code. Last session, the legislation, which was introduced by Representative Yaroch required the department to regulate activities of certain organizations operating at private use airports.

State Aeronautics had some concerns about certain changes being proposed by Rep. Yaroch but has put together a new draft of the legislation that would alleviate those problems. MAAE will continue to work with State Aeronautics on the development of this legislation.

MAAE Identifies Funding Priorities

The MAAE has targeted the following funding priorities to support airports in Michigan. These priorities will supplement continued work on a long-term viable funding solution.

Revitalization of the Michigan Air Service Development Program

\$5 million for Michigan's Air Service Development Program to stimulate economic activity and air service connectivity in Michigan in light of recent elimination of air service across Michigan.

If not approved, the State will continue to lose connectivity from our regional commercial airports to the national network of airports and destinations. This decline in air service availability may lead to reduced economic activity or relocation of economic impacts to other states.

Local Airport Revitalization Program

\$2.0 million for funding for MDOT Aeronautics to provide airport development assistance to general aviation airports. This would be a one-time general fund contribution of \$2 million to provide capital development assistance to general aviation airports for projects including obstruction removal, pavement rehabilitation, fuel facility construction and terminal improvements.

If not approved, general aviation airports will continue to experience decline in the condition of their pavements and facilities leading to reductions in the available network of airports which are responsible for \$22 billion annual economic impact.

Retrofitting Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Equipment

\$4 million to establish a grant program within EGLE to assist in cleaning Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Equipment and disposing of PFAS contaminated equipment used at airports to expedite the transition to fluorine-free foam for all Michigan Airports.

If not approved, Airports would continue to have to use equipment that has had long term exposure to PFAS jeopardizing the health and safety of the community.

Peer-to-peer Carsharing Legislation

Last session, there was action on bipartisan legislation to regulate peer-to-peer carsharing service companies in Michigan. Enterprise Holdings and the MAAE testified in support of the legislation while Turo testified opposed to the legislation.

The legislation passed out of the Committee favorably by a vote of 11-0-4 but never received a full vote on the House Floor.

This legislation will be reintroduced at some point in 2023.