



MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Smigelski
From: Matt Solak
Date: November 2022
Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

2022 Lame Duck

Michigan's small "blue wave" on election night has shaken up the 2022 "Lame Duck" session in an unprecedented way. Since June 30 the House of Representatives has had three days of legislative votes. The House and Senate are scheduled for two more days of session—December 6 and 7. Both Chambers have a tentative third day scheduled but neither is likely to happen. This lack of legislative activity is directly attributable to the Democrats winning both legislative Chambers and all the Executive Offices in Michigan. With those wins there is little, to no incentive, for legislative Democrats or the Governor to pass any bills before they take full control in January.

The brief "Lame Duck" period is already off to a very rocky start. A top priority of Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) went down this week after not receiving votes from his own caucus members. Additionally, Governor Whitmer and Speaker Jason Wentworth (R-Farwell) are disputing a conversation they had after the Speaker told reporters his team went to the Governor's office with 30 bi-partisan bills that have passed at least one chamber as possible lame duck offerings to close out the 2021-22 session. He said the Governor told the Speaker that she could sign three of the 30. The Governor disputes the characterization of that conversation.

Legislative Leadership Announcements

Both Caucuses held their leadership races shortly after the election. The 2023-2024 leadership teams are as follows:

House Democratic Leadership Team

House Speaker—Joe Tate (D-Detroit)
Speaker Pro Tempore—Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia)
Majority Floor Leader—Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck)
Appropriations Chair—Angela Witwer (D-Delta Township)

House Republican Leadership Team

Minority Leader—Matt Hall (R-Comstock Township)
Minority Floor Leader—Bryan Posthumus (R-Cannon Township)

Senate Democratic Leadership Team

Majority Leader—Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids)
Majority Floor Leader—Sam Singh (D-East Lansing)
Appropriations Chair—Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing)

Senate Republican Leadership Team

Minority Leader—Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton)
Minority Floor Leader—Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway)

Committee Chairs will be named in early December. As previously reported, Democrats will control the Michigan Senate with a 20-18 majority and the Democrats will control the Michigan House with a 56-54 majority.

HB 6361 Changes to the Aeronautics Code

On August 17, Representative Jeff Yaroch introduced legislation making certain changes to the State Aeronautics Code. The primary purpose of the legislation is to require the Aeronautics Department to regulate activities of certain organizations operating at private use airports.

The suggested changes stem from Representative Yaroch having issues with a non-profit skydiving club operation on a private airstrip in his district. He has received numerous constituent complaints and has been looking for ways to regulate operations.

MAAE is monitoring the legislation at this time and has taken no official position. The MAAE is working with the State Aeronautics Office and Rep. Yaroch on how this legislation may impact airports.

This legislation is unlikely to see action before adjournment for the year.

HB 6123 Airport Firearm Changes

The MAAE was approached by Representative Damoose regarding his introduction of HB 6123. The legislation intends to update 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 statute 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.

The legislation had a hearing on September 13 and was reported from committee on September 21. The MAAE supported the legislation which will now move to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

This legislation is unlikely to see action before adjournment for the year.

Potential Tax Policy Changes and SAF Funding Changes

The MAAE has begun working with key lawmakers to discuss potential tax policy changes to help support funding for the State Aeronautic Fund. As members are aware, SAF funding has not adequately kept up with the needs of airports in Michigan.

On June 14, HB 6172 was introduced by State Representative Scott VanSingel and SB 1071 was introduced by Senator Wayne Schmidt. Both of these bills would earmark an amount equal to the collections of the sales tax imposed at a rate of 4% to the state aeronautics fund.

This legislation is unlikely to see action before adjournment for the year.

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

On March 22, the House Regulatory Reform Committee held a hearing 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 and will now head to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

The legislation would require a peer-to-peer car sharing program or shared vehicle owner to enter into an agreement with an airport before a shared vehicle could engage in certain activities at an airport. The 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 or any payment of fees.

Turo continues to advocate for weaker airport language in the legislation. Rep. Outman continues to be a bulwark against Turo's efforts to water down the legislation.

This legislation is unlikely to see action before adjournment for the year.

