



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 27, 2016  
**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Martin Ackley, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** State and Federal Legislative Update

**MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

On January 19, **HB 5219 CAMPAIGN FINANCE (Lyons)** was referred to the House Committee on Elections. The bill modifies a provision related to use of public funds for certain advertisement campaigns.

On January 21, **HB 5223 EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY (Banks)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill returns certain schools operated by the Education Achievement Authority to operation and control of original school district.

On January 26, **HB 5231 DEQ SUPPLEMENTAL (Neeley)** was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill distributes revenue from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Quality.

On January 26, **HB 5235 TEACHER STRIKES (Kelly)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill provides for changes in public service provisions concerning teacher strikes.

On January 26, **HB 5236 TEACHER STRIKES (Price)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill requires teacher engaging in a prohibited strike and requires suspension of teaching certificate.

On January 26, **HB 5237 TEACHER STRIKES (Somerville)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill provides for requirement for a public school employer to forfeit 5 percent of school aid payments for failure to deduct funds from strike participants.

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## **MICHIGAN SENATE**

On January 21, **HB 5220 FLINT WATER SUPPLEMENTAL (Phelps)** was transmitted to the Governor where it awaits action. The bill provides distribution of certain appropriated revenue from the state General Fund to assist in the Flint water crisis.

On January 21, **SB 539 PROMISE ZONES (Hansen)** was placed on third reading in the full House of Representatives where it awaits further action. The bill allows additional promise zones and modifies their administration.

On January 21, **SB 540 STATE EDUCATION TAX (Ananich)** was placed on third reading in the full House of Representatives where it awaits further action. The bill modifies distribution of state education tax.

On January 13, **SB 691 SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS (Knollenberg)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy. The bill revises reference to "hearing impaired" to "hard of hearing."

On January 13, **SB 692 HEARING IMPAIRED REFERENCES (Zorn)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy. The bill revises reference to deaf and "hearing impaired" to deaf, deafblind and "hard of hearing."

On January 13, **SB 693 DEAFNESS ACT (O'Brien)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy. The bill revises title of division on deafness act to division on deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.

On January 13, **SB 694 DEAF, DEAFBLIND AND HEARING IMPAIRED (Warren)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy. The bill revises reference in the department of civil rights to "deaf, deafblind and hearing impaired."

On January 14, **SB 710 DPS REFORM (Hansen)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations. The bill creates community districts.

On January 14, **SB 711 MICHIGAN FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMISSION (Hansen)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations. The bill expands Michigan financial review commission to include certain school districts.

On January 14, **SB 703 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Zorn)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations. The bill removes prohibition on the use of public funds for certain communications referencing local ballot questions.

On January 21, **SB 713 TEACHER STRIKES (Pavlov)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill provides for changes in provisions concerning teacher strikes.

On January 21, **SB 714 TEACHER STRIKES (Robertson)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill requires suspension of teaching certificate for teachers engaging in prohibited strike.

On January 21, **SB 715 TEACHER STRIKES (Hune)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill provides for requirement for a public school employer to forfeit 5 percent of school aid payments for failure to deduct funds from strike participants.

On January 26, **SB 718 (Hertel)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill provides for certain requirements for grades K-5 music instruction program.

## **FEDERAL UPDATE**

### **OPPORTUNITY TOUR-PELL GRANT PROPOSALS**

Acting Secretary King and Under Secretary Ted Mitchell met with students and educators at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida, spotlighting examples of excellence in postsecondary education. During the visit, the Administration called for significant new investments in the federal Pell Grant program – the cornerstone of college affordability. These two new proposals would help students to accelerate progress toward their degrees by attending school year-round and encourage students to take more credits per term, increasing their likelihood of on-time completion.

*Pell for Accelerated Completion* would allow full-time students the opportunity to earn a third semester of Pell Grants in an academic year, enabling them to finish faster by taking additional courses year-round and better meeting the diverse needs of today's students. Many full-time students exhaust annual Pell eligibility after only two semesters, and, as a result, are unable to pay for summer courses and must wait until the start of the next academic year to continue their studies. Next year, on average, this proposal would provide nearly 700,000 students who are making real progress toward on-time graduation with an additional \$1,915 to pay for college and complete their degrees faster.

*On-Track Pell Bonus* would create an incentive for students to stay on track or accelerate progress toward a degree through an increase in the maximum Pell Grant award of \$300 for students who take 15 credits per semester in an academic year. Finishing faster means more students would complete their education at a lower cost and with less student debt. Next year, this proposal would help around 2.3 million students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact me at (517) 241-4395.