



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Statement On Legislative Actions During Lame Duck Session

There have been joint resolutions introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate to amend the Michigan Constitution to require a two-thirds vote by both chambers to pass any bill after the November election in an even-numbered year – a time commonly referred to as “Lame Duck.”

Specifically, those resolutions are House Joint Resolution L and Senate Joint Resolution H. If either is adopted by both the House of Representatives and Senate, the proposal to amend the Michigan Constitution would be placed on a statewide ballot for consideration by the people of the state of Michigan.

As has occurred for decades, Lame Duck sessions following a November election have seen the passage of bills that have been re-written and pushed through the legislature in the early morning hours of the last days of those sessions without public input – in many cases by elected officials who no longer are accountable to their constituents, either through term limits, retirement, or being voted out of office.

Requiring a two-thirds vote to pass legislation during a Lame Duck session would necessitate bipartisan involvement and agreement on all bills, and ensure more transparency, input, and public confidence in Michigan’s legislative process.

As such, the State Board of Education supports both House Joint Resolution L and Senate Joint Resolution H; and encourages the state legislature to adopt either resolution to put this question of amending the Michigan Constitution before the people of Michigan.

Adopted October 8, 2019

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