



MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Smigelski
From: Matt Solak
Date: April 2023
Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

House and Senate Appropriations Committees Pass Budgets

The legislature has spent April completely focused on passing the FY 2024 appropriations budgets. All department budgets have now passed their respective subcommittees and the full appropriations committee in the chamber of origin. Each Chamber will pass their budget proposals before they are sent to a conference committee to resolve the differences in the House and Senate budgets.

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. The MAAE is excited to report that all targeted items have been included in either the House Budget or both House and Senate Budgets. While this is just the first step it is a critical step to ensure they will make it through the entire process.

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.

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.

Retrofitting Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Equipment

\$2 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.

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 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.

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.

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.