



## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Steve Smigelski

**From:** Matt Solak

**Date:** May 2023

**Re:** MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

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### **Chambers Pass Budgets**

The legislature continued working through the budget process in May. Both the House and Senate have passed their respective budgets and completely the budgets have been referred to 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

The Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on Senate Bill 22 which updates the federal statute referenced in the state's airport sterile area statute.

The legislation was introduced 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.

Kevin Klein testified in support of the legislation on behalf of the MAAE. On May 25 the Committee passed the bill unanimously. It will now be considered by the full Senate.

### 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.

### HB 4618

Legislation was introduced at the end of May that would allow regional airport authorities to be included in the definition of a "local unit of government" in the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act for the purpose of allowing their boards to exempt themselves from contribution limits to an employee's medical benefits plan. A hearing is scheduled to take place in early June.

### HB 4610 and HB 4611 Sales and Use Tax Exemptions

Legislation has been introduced that would exempt sales and use tax on the purchase of certain aviation equipment. This legislation is similar to legislation that has been introduced in previous sessions.

### **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.