

2015–2016 KEY HOUSE VOTES BILL DESCRIPTIONS

ELECTION REFORM

SB 776 – Revise Signature Requirements for Ballot Questions

Amends Michigan Election Law to prohibit a signature on a petition to amend the Constitution or initiate legislation from being counted if the signature was made more than 180 days before the petition is filed with the Secretary of State. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 142 of 2016.
Roll Call Number 293

HEALTH INSURANCE

HB 5105 – Increase HICA Tax

Imposes a \$1.98 billion tax increase on individuals and businesses who purchase health insurance by extending the sunset of the Health Insurance Claims Assessment (“HICA Tax”) by nearly eight years. The Michigan Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed the House but was significantly amended by the Senate before it was enacted into law as Public Act 50 of 2016.
Roll Call Vote 459

HUMAN RESOURCES

HB 4052 – Prohibit Local Employment Laws

Guarantees that only the state and federal government would have the authority to enact employment law mandates on businesses. Absent this preemption, Michigan’s 1,800+ local units of government could potentially enact a patchwork of aggressive new mandates governing employers’ relations with their employees, including minimum wage, leave time, scheduling and/or employee benefit requirements. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 105 of 2015.
Roll Call Vote 249

HB 4119 – Reform Garnishment Process

Addresses the most serious issues and financial risks associated with Michigan’s wage garnishment process. The legislation puts an end to the practice of allowing creditors to pursue default judgments against employers for the full bad debt of employees. It also increases the fee employers receive to administrate garnishments. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 14 of 2015.
Roll Call Number 10

SB 492 – Protect Franchise Business Model

Protects the franchisee-franchisor business model in Michigan. The legislation stops the trickle-down effect of a controversial National Labor Relations Board ruling and ensures that franchisees will continue to be considered independent business owners and operators as it relates to state labor laws. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 266 of 2015.
Roll Call Number 493

SB 500 – Reduce Unemployment Insurance Taxes

Reduces the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Taxable Wage Base from \$9,500 to \$9,000 per employee. The legislation not only reduces Michigan job providers’ UI tax liabilities but makes their quarterly UI tax bills more predictable. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 240 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 474

LEGAL REFORM

HB 4713 – Decriminalize Honest Regulatory Offenses

Specifies that individuals cannot be criminally liable for regulatory mistakes if they did not mean to break the law or were unaware that a law was being broken. This bill gives individuals and business owners the ability to admit to unwitting violations of the law without fear of criminal prosecution. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 250 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 330

TAX POLICY

SB 100 – Strengthen Taxpayer Rights

Eliminates Michigan’s unfair “pay-to-play” requirement that taxpayers must pre-pay contested taxes in order to use the Court of Claims. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 79 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 200

SB 538 – Expedite Unclaimed Property Audit Process

Provides Michigan-based companies with an expedited Unclaimed Property audit process while limiting the number of years and types of property an auditor can review. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 242 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 471

HB 4122 – Eliminate Ineffective Film Subsidies

Eliminates funding for Michigan’s wasteful and ineffective film subsidies. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 117 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 26

SB 616 – Provide Company-Specific Tax Breaks

Gives hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks to an out-of-state Las Vegas company. The Michigan Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 251 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 487

HB 5458 – Car Insurance Tax Hike

Eliminates important insurance tax credit offset that helps to defray the costs of providing state-mandated unlimited no-fault benefits to individuals who have not even bought insurance. The Michigan Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 278 of 2016.

Roll Call Number 396

HB 5578 – Manipulate Property Tax Assessments

Unfairly skews business and residential property tax assessments by requiring the Michigan Tax Tribunal to eliminate the review of critical variables, thus allowing local governments to over-assess, resulting in higher property taxes.

Roll Call Number 408

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

HB 4736 – Increase Vehicle Registration Fees

Provides a portion of the revenue stream necessary for fixing the roads by amending the Michigan Vehicle Code to increase certain vehicle registration tax rates. It also modernizes the registration tax structure to account for electric-powered motor vehicles. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 174 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 406

HB 4738 – Increase Motor Fuel Tax

Provides a portion of the revenue stream necessary for fixing the roads by amending the Motor Fuel Tax Act to increase the tax on diesel motor fuel from 15 cents per gallon and the tax on gasoline motor fuel from 19 cents per gallon to a single rate of 26.3 cent per gallon effective January 1, 2017; and annually adjust the tax rates for motor fuels based on consumer inflation, with increases capped at 5% per year, effective January 1, 2022. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill passed and was enacted into law as Public Act 176 of 2015.

Roll Call Number 405