

# 2013–2014 KEY HOUSE VOTES BILL DESCRIPTIONS

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

### SB 661 – Free Speech for Job Providers

Protects the Free Speech and Freedom of Association for all job providers by ensuring that members of organizations, like the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, have the ability to educate the public and speak with one voice on important issues. This legislation was a direct response to an administrative rule proposed by the Secretary of State that would have stifled the free speech of job providers. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 252 of 2013.  
*Roll Call Number 488*

## ENVIRONMENT

### SB 163 – Michigan’s Wetlands Law

Updates Michigan’s Wetlands law to bring it into compliance with the Clean Water Act. This legislation will permit Michigan to retain state delegated authority from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to run this program at the state level. Maintaining a state program reduces the cost to businesses and residents, and eliminates unnecessary requirements and streamlines the program. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 98 of 2013.  
*Roll Call Vote 223*

### HB 5400 – Encourage Industrial Recycling

Allows for the reuse of certain industrial byproducts. This law defines what products may be reused, how they may be reused and what requirements are necessary for their reuse. This law brings Michigan more in line with the way other states handle these products and will allow industry to better reuse and recycle their byproducts. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 178 of 2014.  
*Roll Call Vote 375*

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### HB 4952 – Unemployment Insurance

Reforms the employer-financed Unemployment Insurance system to provide that an individual is disqualified from benefits if the individual tests positive for a pre-employment drug test or refuses to take the test. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 146 of 2013.  
*Roll Call Number 302*

### HB 4642 – Repeal Antiquated Labor Law

Repeals an outdated labor law that requires companies who are involved in a lawful strike or lockout, and who are looking to replace the employees involved, to provide notice to potential employees, via advertisement, that the strike or lockout is in effect and the employment offered is in place of employees involved. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed the House, but the Senate has not acted.  
*Roll Call Number 418*

### HB 5487 – Workers’ Compensation

Addresses an unprecedented liability facing the workers’ compensation system that, if left unaddressed, could threaten the sustainability of Michigan’s self-insurance system. The Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 236 of 2014.  
*Roll Call Number 310*

## LEGAL REFORM

### SB 443 – Limit Judgment Levies

Limits the ability of judges to levy property taxes to pay unpaid bills that school districts owe to their vendors. The legislation creates a robust notification process that will immediately give the legislature, state treasury and locals the information they need to intervene before a judgment is levied. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 185 of 2013.  
*Roll Call Number 495*

### HB 5558 – Lawsuit Abuse

Clarifies that lawsuits cannot be filed against insurance companies under the state Consumer Protection Act because they are already subject to lawsuits under the state’s Insurance Code. The Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 251 of 2014.  
*Roll Call Number 347*

## TAX POLICY

### SB 337 – Taxpayer Protections

Reforms Michigan’s officer tax liability statutes in order to stop unwarranted tax assessments on employees or officers who were either not at a company during the time of tax default or had no responsibility for tax filings. Also implements concrete deadlines for tax audits and tax refund approvals. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 3 of 2014.  
*Roll Call Number 4*

### SB 489 – Personal Property Tax Reform

Provides small businesses with less than \$80,000 in equipment per tax jurisdiction with full tax relief. This bill is part of a package to begin phase-out of the business personal property tax. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 153 of 2013.  
*Roll Call Number 334*

### HB 4291 – Audit Procedures

Requires Michigan Treasury to improve audit procedures. Codifies that Michigan Treasury must provide taxpayers with their audit work papers and requires Treasury to promulgate rules regarding acceptable standards for performing audits. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed and enacted into law as Public Act 35 of 2014.  
*Roll Call Number 120*

## TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

### HB 5477 – Modernize Gas Tax

Modernizes the current fixed gas tax rate of 19 cents per gallon to a percent per-gallon rate. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed by the House but was defeated by the Senate.  
*Roll Call Number 213*

### HB 5493 – Diesel Tax Parity

Modernizes the diesel tax rate to be consistent with the rates established in House Bill 5477. Under the Act, a licensed motor carrier must pay a road tax based on the amount of motor fuel consumed in qualified vehicles on roads within the State. This legislation would ensure truckers not purchasing fuel in Michigan would still remit tax in an amount equal to those buying fuel in state. The Michigan Chamber supported passage. The bill was passed by the House and Senate in substitute form and is awaiting final concurrence by the House.  
*Roll Call Number 214*