



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCHOOL AID AND EDUCATION**  
REP. REGINA WEISS  
CHAIR

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 25, 2024                      10:30 AM                      Room 352, House Appropriations, State Capitol Building

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and Education was called to order by Chair Weiss.

The Chair requested attendance be called:

Present: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson, DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Absent: None.

Excused: None.

Representative Wilson moved to adopt the meeting minutes from March 14, 2024. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

The Chair laid HB 5503 before the committee:

HB 5503 (Rep. Weiss)

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled "The state school aid act of 1979," by amending sections 11 and 17b (MCL 388.1611 and 388.1617b), section 11 as amended by 2023 PA 320 and section 17b as amended by 2007 PA 137.

Representative Morgan moved to adopt substitute (H-1) to HB 5503. The motion prevailed 11-0-0:

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson, DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: None.

Pass: None.

Representative DeBoer offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 335, line 24, after "exceed" by striking out "\$955,300,000.00" and inserting "\$1,587,000,000.00" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

Representative DeBoer moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Meerman offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 21, line 25, after "school," by striking out "\$9,150.00" and inserting "\$9,825.00" and adjusting totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

Representative Meerman moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Meerman offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 5, line 19, after "MCL 12.262," by inserting "**an amount not to exceed \$22,700,000.00 from the school consolidation and infrastructure fund created under section 11x,**" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

2. Amend page 15, following line 13, by inserting:

**"(7) From the school consolidation and infrastructure fund created in this section, there is allocated for 2024-2025 only an amount not to exceed \$22,700,000.00 to public school academies for facility improvements. Funds allocated under this subsection must be allocated on a per pupil basis."** and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

Representative Meerman moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Green offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 135, line 4, after "for" by inserting "**2024-2025**, from the general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated \$18,000,000.00 for" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

2. Amend page 135, line 13, by inserting "nonpublic schools,".

3. Amend page 138, line 4, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
4. Amend page 138, line 5, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
5. Amend page 138, line 9, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
6. Amend page 138, line 12, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
7. Amend page 138, line 18, after "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
8. Amend page 138, line 24, after "**Blind**." By inserting "From the general fund money allocated in subsection (1), the department shall make payments to nonpublic schools in an equal amount per pupil, using pupil counts determined by the department. The department shall ensure that the amount per pupil paid to nonpublic schools does not exceed the amount per pupil paid to districts and intermediate districts.".
9. Amend page 139, line 8, after the second "districts," by striking "and" and inserting "nonpublic schools, **and**".
10. Amend page 139, line 12, after the second "district," by striking "or" and inserting "nonpublic school, **or**".
11. Amend page 140, line 5, after "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
11. Amend page 140, line 12, after "**districts**," by inserting "**nonpublic schools**,".
12. Amend page 140, line 13, after the second "**districts**," by inserting "**nonpublic schools**,".
13. Amend page 140, line 22, after the second "**districts**," by inserting "**nonpublic schools**,".

Representative Green moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Green offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1 Amend page 341, following line 8, by inserting:

" Sec. 152b. (1) From the general fund money appropriated under section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 for ~~2023-2024~~**2024-2025** to reimburse actual costs incurred by nonpublic schools in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement mandated by a law or administrative rule of this state.

(2) By January 1 of each applicable fiscal year, the department shall publish a form for reporting actual costs incurred by a nonpublic school in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement mandated under state law containing each health, safety, or welfare requirement mandated by a law or administrative rule of this state applicable to a nonpublic school and with a reference to each relevant provision of law or administrative rule for the requirement. The form must be posted on the department's website in electronic form.

(3) By June 30 of each applicable fiscal year, a nonpublic school seeking reimbursement for actual costs incurred in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement under a law or administrative rule of this state during each applicable school year must submit a completed form described in subsection (2) to the department. This section does not require a nonpublic school to submit a form described in subsection (2). A nonpublic school is not eligible for reimbursement under this section if the nonpublic school does not submit the form described in subsection (2) in a timely manner.

(4) By August 15 of each applicable fiscal year, the department shall distribute funds to each nonpublic school that submits a completed form described under subsection (2) in a timely manner. The superintendent shall determine the amount of funds to be paid to each nonpublic

school in an amount that does not exceed the nonpublic school's actual costs in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement under a law or administrative rule of this state. The superintendent shall calculate a nonpublic school's actual cost in accordance with this section.

(5) If the funds allocated under this section are insufficient to fully fund payments as otherwise calculated under this section, the department shall distribute funds under this section on a prorated or other equitable basis as determined by the superintendent.

(6) The department may review the records of a nonpublic school submitting a form described in subsection (2) only for the limited purpose of verifying the nonpublic school's compliance with this section. If a nonpublic school does not allow the department to review records under this subsection, the nonpublic school is not eligible for reimbursement under this section.

(7) The funds appropriated under this section are for purposes that are incidental to teaching and the provision of educational services to nonpublic school students; that are noninstructional in nature; that do not constitute a primary function or element necessary for a nonpublic school's existence, operation, and survival; that do not involve or result in excessive religious entanglement; and that are intended for the public purpose of ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the children in nonpublic schools and to reimburse nonpublic schools for costs described in this section.

(8) Funds allocated under this section are not intended to aid or maintain any nonpublic school, support the attendance of any student at a nonpublic school, employ any person at a nonpublic school, support the attendance of any student at any location where instruction is offered to a nonpublic school student, or support the employment of any person at any location where instruction is offered to a nonpublic school student.

(9) For purposes of this section, "actual cost" means the hourly wage for the employee or employees performing a task or tasks required to comply with a health, safety, or welfare requirement under a law or administrative rule of this state identified by the department under subsection (2) and is to be calculated in accordance with the form published by the department under subsection (2), which must include a detailed itemization of costs. The nonpublic school shall not charge more than the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable of performing a specific task regardless of whether that individual is available and regardless of who actually performs a specific task. Labor costs under this subsection must be estimated and charged in increments of 15 minutes or more, with all partial time increments rounded down. When calculating costs under subsection (4), fee components must be itemized in a manner that expresses both the hourly wage and the number of hours charged. The nonpublic school may not charge any applicable labor charge amount to cover or partially cover the cost of health or fringe benefits. A nonpublic school shall not charge any overtime wages in the calculation of labor costs.

(10) Training fees, inspection fees, and criminal background check fees are considered actual costs in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement under a law or administrative rule of this state.

(11) The funds allocated under this section for 2022-2023 are a work project appropriation, and any unexpended funds for 2022-2023 are carried forward into 2023-2024. The purpose of the work project is to continue to reimburse nonpublic schools for actual costs incurred in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement mandated by a law or administrative rule of this state. The estimated completion date of the work project is September 30, 2024.

(12) The funds allocated under this section for 2023-2024 are a work project appropriation, and any unexpended funds for 2023-2024 are carried forward into 2024-2025. The purpose of

the work project is to continue to reimburse nonpublic schools for actual costs incurred in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement mandated by a law or administrative rule of this state. The estimated completion date of the work project is September 30, 2025.

**(13) The funds allocated under this section for 2024-2025 are a work project appropriation, and any unexpended funds for 2024-2025 are carried forward into 2025-2026. The purpose of the work project is to continue to reimburse nonpublic schools for actual costs incurred in complying with a health, safety, or welfare requirement mandated by a law or administrative rule of this state. The estimated completion date of the work project is September 30, 2026.**

~~(14)~~ (13) The department shall reimburse nonpublic schools for actual costs incurred in complying with health, safety, or welfare requirements under a law or administrative rule of this state from 2017-2018 through 2022-2023 using work project funds or, if those funds are insufficient to fund reimbursements under this subsection, from the allocation under subsection (1)." and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

2. Amend page 345, line 10, after "147f," by striking out "152b,".

3. Amend page 345, line 21, by striking out "388.1752b,".

Representative Green moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Green offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 98, line 26, after "**2024-2025,**" by inserting "**from the general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 for 2024-2025,**" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

2. Amend page 101, line 15, after "district," by inserting "**nonpublic school,**".

Representative Green moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Beson offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 293, line 19, after "exceed" by striking out "\$6,373,200.00" and inserting "**\$6,973,200.00**" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

2. Amend page 293, line 20, after the second "districts" by inserting a comma and "and from the general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated \$600,000.00 for ~~2023-~~

2024-2024-2025 for competitive grants to nonpublic schools," and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

3. Amend page 294, line 13, after "be" by striking out "\$4,723,200.00" and inserting "\$5,323,200.00".
4. Amend page 294, line 18, after "districts" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic schools,".
5. Amend page 295, line 11, after the first "districts" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic schools,".
6. Amend page 296, line 13, after the first "district" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic school,".
7. Amend page 296, line 16, after "district" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic school,".
8. Amend page 296, line 17, after the second "district" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic school,".
9. Amend page 296, line 27, after "districts" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic schools,".
10. Amend page 297, line 1, after "districts" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic schools,".
11. Amend page 297, line 5, after "districts" by inserting a comma and "nonpublic schools,".
12. Amend page 297, following line 8, by inserting:  
"(6) A nonpublic school that receives a grant under this section may use the funds for either robotics or Science Olympiad programs.  
(7) To be eligible to receive funds under this section, a nonpublic school must be a nonpublic school registered with the department and must meet all applicable state reporting requirements for nonpublic schools." and renumbering the remaining subsections.

Representative Beson moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Beson offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 258, following line 21, by inserting:

**"(f): Ensure that all districts located within its geographic boundaries have equitable access to the intermediate district's coordination activities and services, intermediate district-wide or regional meetings, regularly scheduled superintendent meetings, programming, events, email distribution lists, listservs, or other coordination or collaboration activities organized by or hosted at the intermediate district. In ensuring that all districts located within the geographic boundaries of the intermediate district have equitable access to services, meetings, programming, events, email distribution lists, listservs, or activities as described in this subdivision, the intermediate district shall ensure that districts that are public school academies that are located within its geographic boundaries are not excluded from said services, meetings, programming, events, email distribution lists, listservs, or activities organized by or hosted at the intermediate district if districts that are not public school academies that are located within the geographic boundaries of the intermediate district are not excluded."**

Representative Beson moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Beson offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 189, line 25, after "exceed" by striking out "\$100.00" and inserting "\$1,000,000.00" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

Representative Beson moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-4-3:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Steckloff, Price, Wilson.

Pass: Reps. Morgan, Koleszar, Skaggs.

Representative Beson offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 52, following line 11, by inserting:

**"Sec. 22o. From the state school aid fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated for 2024-2025 an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 to Bay-Arenac Intermediate District for the following purposes:**

**(a) To reimburse parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in a constituent district of Bay-Arenac Intermediate District for toll bridge payments made when traveling to and from school and school events.**

**(b) To reimburse constituent districts of Bay-Arenac Intermediate District for toll bridge expenses for travel to and from school and school events."** and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

Representative Beson moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-7-0:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: None.

Representative Meerman offered the following amendment to HB 5503:

1. Amend page 135, line 4, after "for" by inserting "**2024-2025**, from the general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated \$18,000,000.00 for" and adjusting the totals in section 11 and enacting section 1 accordingly.

2. Amend page 135, line 13, by inserting "nonpublic schools,".

3. Amend page 135, line 18, after "**\$150,000,00.00.**" by striking the balance of the line through "least" on line 19 and inserting "**Recipients shall use**".

4. Amend page 135, line 22, after "**mapping**" by inserting "**and shall use 50% of the funds on products or activities related to improving student safety**".

5. Amend page 138, line 4, after the second "**district,**" by inserting "**nonpublic school,**".

6. Amend page 138, line 5, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
7. Amend page 138, line 9, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
8. Amend page 138, line 12, after the second "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
9. Amend page 138, line 18, after "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
10. Amend page 138, line 24, after "**Blind**." By inserting "From the general fund money allocated in subsection (1), the department shall make payments to nonpublic schools in an equal amount per pupil, using pupil counts determined by the department. The department shall ensure that the amount per pupil paid to nonpublic schools does not exceed the amount per pupil paid to districts and intermediate districts.".
11. Amend page 139, line 8, after the second "districts," by striking "and" and inserting "nonpublic schools, **and**".
12. Amend page 139, line 12, after the second "district," by striking "or" and inserting "nonpublic school, **or**".
13. Amend page 140, line 5, after "**district**," by inserting "**nonpublic school**,".
14. Amend page 140, line 12, after "**districts**," by inserting "**nonpublic schools**,".
15. Amend page 140, line 13, after the second "**districts**," by inserting "**nonpublic schools**,".
16. Amend page 140, line 22, after the second "**districts**," by inserting "**nonpublic schools**,".

Representative Meerman moved to adopt the amendment to HB 5503. The motion did not prevail 4-6-1:

#### UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Pass: Rep. Koleszar.

Representative Koleszar moved to refer House Bill No. 5503 to the Committee on Appropriations. The motion prevailed 7-2-2:

#### FAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Nays: Reps. Green, Meerman.

Pass: Reps. DeBoer, Beson.

The Chair laid HB 5506 before the committee:

HB 5506 (Rep. Weiss)

A bill to make appropriations for the department of education for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

Representative Skaggs moved to adopt substitute (H-1) to HB 5506. The motion prevailed 11-0-0:

#### FAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson, DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

Nays: None.

Pass: None.



Representative Price moved to refer House Bill No. 5506 to the Committee on Appropriations. The motion prevailed 7-0-4:

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. Weiss, Morgan, Koleszar, Steckloff, Price, Skaggs, Wilson.

Nays: None.

Pass: Reps. DeBoer, Green, Meerman, Beson.

John McNamara, representing Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, submitted a card not wishing to speak but in support of HB 5503 (H-1).

There being no further business before the subcommittee, Chair Weiss adjourned the meeting at 11:28 AM.

---

Representative Regina Weiss, Chair

Jacqueline Mullen  
Committee Clerk  
jmullen@house.mi.gov