

3/15

HB 4451 allows for remote driver's license testing. I voted in favor of this bill because it would free up Secretary of State branch staff capacity, allowing them to serve other residents. **HB 4451** passed 100-3.

HB 5262 amends the "Insurance Code of 1956" to require health insurers to provide a nonopioid directive form to insureds upon enrollment. I voted in favor of this bill because making nonopioid directive forms more widely available will help improve awareness of, accessibility to, and visibility of the forms. Doing so will help prevent an addiction that may often start with an initial prescription. It is important that the state remain vigilant in its continued fight against opioid addiction, and that every tool must be used to prevent the problem from getting worse. **HB 5262** passed 93-10.

SB 244 amends the procedure for providing service of process by affidavit, by requiring process servers (who are not law enforcement or court officers) to sign a declaration under penalty of perjury and makes other minor changes to the service of process procedure. I voted in favor of this bill because process servers have an important job that is critical to ensuring due process of law. If the service of process is not carried out properly, it can have drastic consequences for litigants. Therefore, it is imperative that service is not inadequate due to a process server's unethical behavior. Adding a felony penalty would serve as a deterrent to process servers and ensure that service of process is carried out properly. **SB 244** passed unanimously.

HBs 5611-12 would exempt adult and children's diapers from the use and sales tax, respectively. I voted in favor of this bill package in the House Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors, but I did vote against both bills on the House floor. It is rare that I change my vote from Committee to the House floor unless a substantial change was made to the bill, or there are extraneous circumstances. In this instance, the extraneous circumstance is the majority party in the House has spent the last few weeks passing several tax cuts. Tax cuts that are not only fiscally irresponsible, they have the potential to reduce funding for critical government services such as public safety and infrastructure repair projects. Therefore, I could not in good conscience vote in favor of another set of bills that would further decrease state revenue. I fully believe that there are better ways that we can serve the working people of Michigan, such as expanding the EITC, providing paid family leave, lowering the costs of prescription drugs, and investing in repairing our crumbling roads and bridges. **HB 5611** failed to pass with a vote of 49-54. **HB 5612** failed to pass with a vote of 50-53.

HB 5678 removes service fees for certain military veterans who apply for or renew a specialty registration plate. I voted in favor of this bill because it is a nod of thanks to veterans who served their country. Eliminating the service fee connected with these license plates will allow a veteran to have a license plate that marks their service in the U.S. Armed Services. **HB 5678** passed 101-2.

3/16

HB 4834 would create an alternative, specific personal property taxing structure for qualified heavy equipment rental. I voted in favor of this bill because the current system whereby personal property tax on mobile equipment is paid based on what jurisdiction the equipment happens to be on "tax day" (December 31) is convoluted and difficult to comply with, given the disparate tax structures in thousands of local units of government across the state. The current system is also subject to significant tax avoidance. **HB 4834** passed 100-4.

HB 5682 enhances criminal penalties for assaulting emergency room personnel. The bill defines "emergency room personnel" to include, but not be limited to, physicians, nurses, intake clerks, and any other individuals employed in the emergency department or emergency room of a state-licensed hospital. I voted in favor of this bill because it recognizes the need to provide special protection to healthcare professionals while engaged in their professions. These professionals risk injury and even death on the front line while tending to the ill and injured. Hopefully, specific penalties will serve as a deterrent so that both healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities are safe. **HB 5682** passed 88-16.

HB 5586 is a property conveyance bill that would amend a deed restriction from a property, the Mt. Pleasant Center, previously conveyed to the City of Mt. Pleasant, and allow the property to be used for economic development. I voted against this bill because it establishes a bad precedent of providing public property for private purposes. **HB 5586** passed 71-33.

3/17

HBs 5659-60 amend the adult foster care facility licensing act to require the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs provide biannual reports to the Legislature and State Budget Office containing "feedback and input" from inspectors within the Bureau of Community Health Systems. I voted in favor of both bills because they will increase transparency and oversight of various entities that the Bureau monitors. Both bills passed 100-3.

HBs 4912 and 5804 establish the veterinarian-client-patient relationship, clarify the supervision of veterinarians, and allow for the use of telehealth during an emergency. I voted in favor of both bills because they address issues of supervision in veterinary medicine. Additionally, they make sure that animals can receive the veterinary care they need during a state of emergency. **HB 4912** passed 85-17. **HB 5804** passed 71-31.

SB 618 amends the "School bond qualification, approval, and loan Act" removing the 3% floor on interest rates for qualified loans under the act. I voted in favor of this bill because it will reduce the borrowing costs for school districts participating in the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. Additionally, the legislation still retains the flexibility of the state treasurer to lower or increase the interest rate under specified circumstances. **SB 618** passed 100-3.

HB 5797 makes appropriations for multiple departments and branches for fiscal year 2022-2023. I voted in favor of this bill because it provides funding to keep our state government and state departments operating. **HB 5797** passed unanimously.

3/22

HB 4074 would encourage all public schools, beginning in the 2023-24 school year, to ensure their 9th through 12th-grade social studies curriculum includes lessons in free enterprise and entrepreneurship. I voted in favor of the bill because it would promote the idea of entrepreneurialism and expose students to critical and transferable skills. Additionally, this is not a mandate and schools would only add the project-based curriculum if they wanted to. **HB 4074** passed 96-9.

HB 5566 requires late fees to be added to the judgment in summary proceedings in eviction cases. I voted against this bill because the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) believes these fees go far beyond compensating landlords for the actual costs that late payment of rent imposes on them, but rather wrongfully punishes tenants and is a revenue windfall for landlords. This bill will further exacerbate Michigan's affordable housing crisis for low-income families. By mandating the late fees, it is restricting and taking away the authority of district court judges. Additionally, there is nothing in the bill requiring the landlord to have "clean hands" before getting these late fees, thus, a landlord may tack on a late fee irrespective of the number of violations under Michigan's law they have filed against them concerning their rental properties. Finally, this bill doesn't contain any protections for tenants regarding landlords charging exorbitant late fees or computing the late fees in a way that makes the fees unreasonable, like charging daily. **HB 5566** passed 67-38.

HB 5287 amends Michigan Election Law to move authority for nominating candidates from city and township parties to county parties for special elections. I voted in favor of this bill because the State political organizations of Michigan operate structurally by county instead of smaller units of government. **HB 5287** passed 102-3.

3/23

SB 247 would modify the prior authorization (PA) process that insurance companies use to determine coverage for certain medicines or medical procedures. I voted in favor of this bill because physicians have expressed concerns about PAs and believe that they serve as a roadblock to patients receiving necessary treatment. This, they firmly believe, results in PA having a detrimental impact on patient care overall. Additionally, this bill will ensure the following:

1. Physicians, not insurers, have the ultimate say in what is best for patients.
2. Utilization management does not delay a patient's access to critical care because of a process that is onerous and time-consuming.
3. Insurers do not simply deny medicine or a procedure based on its costs.

4. A clearly defined and streamlined process for getting approval of PAs and a less complicated process for handling appeals and adverse determinations.

SB 247 passed 103-2.

HB 5384 amends the Revised School Code (RSC) by adding military organization for graduation success rate to the exemption portion of that statute and adding a defined term. I voted in favor of the bill because it allows for schools to support students serving their country and not being penalized by this policy. This will also allow for military focused schools to operate under these rules. **HB 5384** passed 103-2.

HB 4810 amends the Revised School Code (RSC) to eliminate the written component of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and add requirements for the MME repealed in **HB 4811**. **HB 4811** repeals Section 104b from the School Aid Act (SAA). I voted in favor of both bills because the change in reporting requirements streamlines school administrators' obligations, facilitates easier student information transfer, and saves school districts and public school academies money. Both bills passed 104-1.

HBs 5671 and 5704 amend the Michigan Food Law of 2000 to increase the earnings cap, remove sale barriers, expand inspection access, and change label requirements. I voted against both bills because the law was created to help farmers expand products and allow for people to try ideas in the marketplace without all the same requirements as a formal business. This expansion allows unlicensed and uninspected operations more access to the market without any of the safety precautions. Both bills passed 61-44.

HBs 5742-48 amend multiple sections of statute to provide legal authority in those statutes and streamline language where existing to standardize and harmonize the process for obtaining a certificate of free sale across the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). This voluntary, fee-for-service provision uses the fee currently set in the Food Law. These amendments will directly benefit MDARD's ability to provide essential services to Michigan food and agriculture exporting businesses. I voted in favor of all of the bills in this package because they will allow for the sale of Michigan goods internationally. All the bills in this package passed unanimously.

3/24

SB 565 is an appropriations bill that includes funding to address a number of issues related to water including infrastructure, dams, lead, PFAS, wastewater, drinking water, and wetlands. I voted in favor of this budget supplemental because it makes a significant investment in improvements to our state's water-related infrastructure that will benefit all Michiganders. **SB 565** passed 95-7.

SB 302 requires voter registration applications to now include a statement that the elector understands voting or attempting to vote more than once for the same election is a felony. I

voted against this bill because it is unnecessary and misleading to the public. The Senate Republicans themselves found no evidence of fraud in any manner in the 2020 election. Later sections of the Michigan Election Law already state fraudulent voting, such as double voting in one election, is a felony punishable by up to 4 years in prison and a fine of \$2,000 maximum (MCL 168.932a). Therefore, **SB 302** has no actual impact. It is already illegal to vote more than once whether the application for registration states it or not. This bill will only mislead to public to thinking a fake problem has been resolved, and will fuel the fire that the last election was stolen. **SB 302** passed 62-40.

HB 4163 amends the Michigan campaign finance act by changing the requirements for the payor of a campaign advertisement product or telephone message to provide their mailing address. I voted against this bill because it creates less transparency and accountability since the payor of a message would not have to divulge information of where they can be contacted. **HB 4163** passed 58-44.

HBs 5695-96 and 5726, collectively, would amend the “Michigan Liquor Control Code” and the “Youth Employment Standards Act” to allow a wholesaler’s employee who is 16-years old to stock, price, or display alcoholic liquor for an off-premises retailer. Under current law, they must be 18 years old. I voted in favor of all three bills because individuals who are 16 years or older would have more employment opportunities and they may help alleviate Michigan’s worker shortage. **HB 5695** passed 83-19. **HB 5696** passed 86-17. **HB 5726** passed 84-19.

HB 5871 amends the Medical Marijuana Facilities and Licensing Act, expanding the types of entities from or to which a licensed processor or licensed provisioning center is authorized to buy, sell, or transfer marijuana or marijuana infused products. I voted in favor of this bill because that transfer between facilities is reasonable as current law allows for transfer between a registered qualifying patient and a registered primary caregiver. **HB 5871** passed 101-2.

HB 5525 is a supplemental appropriations bill that would make appropriations of \$139.8 million Gross, \$24.1 million General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 to the Attorney General and Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. From the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund, \$100.0 million would be deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Fund for future use in paying State unemployment benefits. In addition, \$20.0 million GF/GP would be appropriated to the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) for customer service improvements, \$8.9 million from the restricted Contingent Fund – Penalty and Interest Account would be appropriated to the UIA for 52 limited-term employees to assist with enhanced fraud enforcement efforts, and \$6.8 million in Federal funds would be appropriated to the UIA for unemployment insurance equity grants. Finally, \$4.1 million GF/GP would be appropriated to the Attorney General to support limited-term staff to assist the UIA with pursuing claimant fraud, employer fraud, and identity theft. I voted in favor of this budget supplemental because it provides critical funding to our state departments. **HB 5525** passed 98-5.