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HB 5434 amends the Michigan Memorial Highway Act of 2001 to designate a portion of highway M-11 in Kent County as the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.” I voted in favor of this bill because it appropriately honors the thousands of servicemembers who served in the Korean War and acknowledges and remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice. **HB 5434** passed 56-1.

HB 5127 amends the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow an honorably discharged partially disabled veteran to receive a disabled veteran specialty vehicle license plate. I voted in favor of this bill because it gives recognition to and fittingly expands the special registration plate to honorably discharged partially disabled veterans. **HB 5127** failed to pass 55-6.

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HBs 5500 and 5507 are fiscal year 2024-25 supplemental appropriations bills. They are appropriation shell bills that only contain various \$100 placeholders. I voted in favor of both bills because moving the shell bills to the Senate allows for the budget process to proceed and allows greater timeliness of appropriations if the need arises. Both bills passed 56-50.

HB 5501 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- \$500,000 to provide technical assistance to ensure the safety of drinking water at childcare centers
- \$8.5 million to provide a reimbursement rate increase of 30% to childcare providers for foster youth

HB 5501 passed 56-50.

HB 5556 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of Health and Human Services. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments, including the following:

- \$9.6 million for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for funding to programs that improve the economic stability of households with very young children
- \$7.5 million for energy assistance for low-income residents facing heat or energy shut-offs or past due notices
- \$2.75 million to support individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. This includes \$2 million to expand family shelters and \$750,000 for short-term hoteling.
- \$3.5 million TANF to support families involved in the child welfare system facing housing insecurity, which includes eviction diversion, first month’s rent and deposit, and utility arrears.

- \$10 million to reduce energy costs for low-income families and to provide pre weatherization assistance
- \$30 million for emergency cash assistance for relocation services, home repairs, food, and other needs
- \$3 million to increase EBT capabilities for grocers and farmers' markets to accept Michigan Bridge Cards and apply double-up food bucks credits
- \$10 million in one-time funding for water affordability efforts
- \$2.5 million in one-time funding to support individuals and families to remain employed and become self-sufficient by providing funds for vehicle repairs, purchases, and other services
- \$5.3 million to support the expansion of runaway and homeless youth capacity
- \$153.2 million to expand Michigan's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics demonstration program sites and provide additional oversight
- \$8.3 million to establish Medicaid reimbursement for peer provided substance use disorder services.
- \$8.6 million to make contractual payments to contractors or subcontractors that serve multicultural populations and groups
- \$2.5 to support enhanced health screening services for first responders and public safety staff
- \$ 4 million to support residential gambling treatment, recovery support services, youth education and prevention services, research and evaluation, provider training, a media campaign, and the problem gambling hotline
- \$1 million for the Autism Navigator Program
- \$500,000 for the Conference of Western Wayne's specialized substance use disorder detoxification project
- \$30.5 million to help provide emergency medical services and access to ex-offenders (returnees from prison, jail, secure juvenile lock-up)
- \$10 million for a food improvement program for Medicaid enrollees
- \$14 million for wage support for non-direct care workers and an increase in wages for long-term direct care workers
- \$36.1 million to increase rates for behavioral health services provided through Medicaid health plans and to provide parity in reimbursement rates for behavioral health services paid through Medicaid health plan contracts to improve access to needed supports for Medicaid enrollees
- \$7 million to provide a 42% increase to the administrative rate paid to providers participating in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
- \$5 million to provide additional trainings and supports for family and informal caregivers assisting individuals enrolled in Michigan's Home and Community-Based Services MiChoice-Waiver program
- \$1.8 million to support the elimination of the monthly MiChild premiums for low-income families with uninsured children under the age of 19
- \$2.5 million to recruit and retain nursing staff who work in state operated facilities and non-state operated facilities

- \$8.1 million to provide increased reimbursement rates for providers participating in the Maternal Infant Health Program and increase rates and provide training services for doulas
- \$5 million to support community providers of violence prevention programming and their efforts to reduce gun violence
- \$5 million to maintain and expand current efforts to reduce tobacco use among Michigan's adult and youth population
- \$2.5 million to support mobile health units
- \$2.5 million is allocated for Sickle Cell Center programming
- \$26 million to continue expansion of programs to support reproductive and maternal health
- \$2 million in ongoing support to victims of sexual assault
- \$2.5 million to ensure statewide support for statutory mandated dental health screenings for children entering kindergarten
- \$7.5 million for DHHS to partner with a public university for training and technical assistance related to school violence prevention, and implementation of statutory requirements established through the Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation
- \$2.5 million to expand the number of Centering Pregnancy sites across the state where expecting mothers can engage in group-based dialogue with peers and healthcare providers
- \$4.9 million to support doula services including Medicaid reimbursement for doula care and training

HB 5556 passed 56-50.

HB 5503 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for School Aid. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments, including the following:

- \$200 million to continue providing free school meals to every public school student
- \$92.6 million to continue supporting school districts experiencing declining enrollment maintain core functions
- \$48 million for career and technical education
- \$313 million for student mental health and school safety
- \$616 million for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

HB 5503 passed 56-50.

HB 5505 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for Higher Education. I voted in favor of this bill because it included several critical investments, including the following:

- \$336 million for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Postsecondary Scholarship Fund
- \$93.8 million for the Tuition Incentive Program

HB 5505 passed 56-50.

HB 5504 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for Community Colleges. I voted in favor of this bill because it includes a \$11.8 million overall funding increase for community colleges. **HB 5504** passed 56-47.

HB 5499 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments, including the following:

- \$82.2 million to provide loans, grants, and direct funding to local communities for water infrastructure. These projects include service line replacements, water treatment facility upgrades, and stormwater management systems.
- \$50 million to remove and replace lead lines in overburdened communities. This funding will also provide ongoing technical assistance to these communities to ensure they can fully access and manage all available resources for water improvement projects
- \$80 million for contaminated site clean-up and siting
- \$25 million for expanding electric vehicle charging stations and to install charging stations at multi-family complexes and commercial parking lots
- \$20 million for the transitioning of Michigan's fleets to green alternatives, providing grants to municipalities, transit authorities, and key infrastructure hubs to replace medium and heavy-duty fleet vehicles with emission free alternatives such as battery EVs and hydrogen fuel-based vehicles
- \$15.3 million to assist municipalities in mitigating the impacts from and adapting to climate change through the installation of stormwater diversion infrastructure that utilizes the restoration of natural site hydrology, implementation of ecological water absorption, and stormwater reuse

HB 5499 passed 56-49.

HB 5509 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments, including the following:

- \$5.5 million for veterans homelessness elimination grants
- \$999,990 for a pilot program that will assist eligible organizations to provide free transportation for veterans who live in rural areas to medical appointments and to appointments for assistance with filing VA claims
- \$600,500 for National Guard Operations

HB 5509 passed 57-48.

HB 5511 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments, including the following:

- \$5 million for Fair Food Network - Double Up Food Bucks, which is a program that provides supplemental benefits for SNAP recipients to purchase fresh produce

HB 5511 passed 56-49.

HB 5508 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of Corrections. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments, including the following:

- \$16.5 million for the implementation of HBs 4665-4667, which authorizes corrections officers to switch from the state employee retirement system to the Michigan State Police Retirement System
- \$12 million for a sign-on or retention bonus for correction officers. This bonus is \$1500 for both new and currently employed correction officers
- \$1 million for the Department to expand their collaboration with universities and colleges providing prisoners the opportunity to get a bachelor's degree. This funding would be used for eligible expenses including staffing, supplies, and tuition.
- \$3.5 million to support peer-led reentry services including mentoring, peer recovery coaching, navigating resources, and assisting with transportation
- \$2.9 million to expand the department's ability to provide "in-reach" parole pre-planning services providing more assistance to parolees before release. This planning includes assisting with housing needs, clothing, transportation, bus passes, and scheduling medical appointments
- \$16.2 million to cover the increased healthcare costs of inmates which includes medical, behavioral, specialty care, and pharmaceutical costs at the prison
- \$10.4 million to cover increased costs for using contracted nursing staff. Because of the number of vacant civil service positions, the Department has had to contract for nurses. Contracted RNs are 31% more expensive than Civil Service RNs, and contracted LPNs are 17% more expensive
- \$10.5 million to cover the cost of hepatitis treatment of the inmates. MDOC has an increased number of inmates requiring treatment each week and a backlog of inmates needing treatment
- \$46.9 million for negotiated salary increases of 5% to go into effect in October 2024, as well as actuarially required adjustments in retirement contributions, workers compensation, building occupancy, and rent changes
- \$2 million for public safety initiatives
- \$1.6 million for the Detroit Detention Center to support higher than normal costs for the operation of the center. These costs include increased contract nursing and janitorial costs

HB 5508 passed 56-49.

HB 5510 provides appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25 for the Department of State Police. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- \$5 million for trooper onboarding, training, and outfitting
- \$7.5 million for a Public Safety Academy Assistance Program

- \$50 million to provide relief funding for businesses and organizations who have been denied funding from FEMA for disasters related to climate change
- \$400,000 to support MSP in workforce development efforts regarding cold case programs
- \$1.3 million for the Office of School Safety
- \$303,000 for the Public Safety Officer Benefit Fund
- \$1.6 million for security services
- \$10 million for the Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund to support local government to support immediate response and recovery activities in the event of an emergency
- \$500,000 for the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Act grant which allows states to create a revolving fund to assist local units of government on natural hazards and disasters

HB 5510 passed 56-49.

HB 5512 provides appropriations for the Department of Natural Resources for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including \$4 million for grants to local schools to enable 4th-grade classes to travel to nearby state parks for education on Michigan's natural resources. This budget proposal also includes funding for Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative's Border-to-Border trail, Copper Peak ski jump project, and the Michigan the Beautiful Initiative. **HB 5512** passed 56-49.

HB 5515 provides appropriations for the Department of the Judiciary for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- \$340,000 to implement recommendations made by the Commission on Well-Being in the Law and to establish a Behavioral Health Administrator position within the courts
- \$3.3 million for additional personnel to implement new workload standards recommended by the National Center for State Courts
- \$1.1 million for State Appellate Defender Office salary increases negotiated in a new collective bargaining agreement
- \$50,000 for increased costs of court facility safety and security staff
- \$150,000 for a Financial Oversight and Support Attorney within the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System. This attorney will develop and implement a review and audit procedure for attorney fee vouchers and attorney fee billing and payment practices.
- \$1 million for any court in the State to establish an Operation Drive program to assist individuals with regaining driving privileges while addressing underlying issues that led to the license suspension.
- \$491,000 in ongoing funding to continue existing oral fluid testing programs in veterans and mental health treatment courts.

HB 5515 passed 56-49.

HB 5516 provides general government appropriations for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contained several critical investments including the following:

- \$3 million for grants to county prosecutor offices that are understaffed relative to their caseload. Grantees would use the grants to bring staffing closer to optimal levels to reduce the average caseload per attorney
- \$2 million to support increased legal actions against employers who fraudulently underpay their employees and activities to strengthen whistleblower protections to shield employees who report wrongdoing
- \$1 million to address human trafficking efforts
- \$900,000 for the Attorney General's office to oversee rate adjustments and litigation involving the Michigan Public Service Commission
- \$780,500 to provide additional state restricted funds to support the Cannabis Regulatory Agency's oversight of medical and adult-use marijuana in Michigan
- \$515,000 for Criminal Trials Services to hire additional staff to support the Address Confidentiality Program, Special Prosecutor assignments, UIA benefits fraud, hate crimes, and cold case homicide investigations and prosecutions
- \$2 million to create additional enforcement teams in the Michigan Department of Civil Rights to reduce the discrimination complaint backlog
- \$1.5 million for the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Arab American Museum, and the Holocaust Memorial Center
- \$500,000 for the Office of the Tribal Legislative Liaison
- \$1.1 million to support recently enacted legislation that would bring more transparency and accountability for elected officials
- \$5.3 million for the Department of State to increase various staffing/operational line items, including branch offices, election services, legal, and other administrative functions
- \$296,000 to support legislative changes enacted last year to expand voter registration outreach and access measures to make voting processes easier.
- \$1.4 million to install dispensers and free menstrual products in the restrooms of state-owned and leased buildings
- \$2.4 million to transform the state website into multiple languages and reduce language access barriers
- \$1.6 million to improve customer service within the Office of Retirement Services. This funding will reduce wait times, enhance engagement and outreach for retirement planning and preparedness, and provide increase assistance for employers
- \$251,000 for State-Owned and Managed buildings to make automated external defibrillators (AED) devices accessible to all workers, customers, and visitors within state-owned buildings in the event that an individual experiences cardiac arrest or a related medical emergency
- \$110.9 million to establish a public safety trust fund. 91.5% of funding goes to cities, villages, townships, and counties for public safety. 6.5% of funding will be distributed by MDHHS for public health grants. 2.0% of funding will go to the Crime Victim's Rights Fund

- \$3 million for the Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience program to allow disabled individuals to save money on certain expenses without impacting their eligibility for other benefits. Funding will be used to promote and educate Michiganders on the availability of this program and its impending federal expansion that will increase program eligibility for 500,000 additional residents
- \$4 million increase in available funding from internet gaming, sports betting, and lottery funds to enhance the 24/7 Gambling Disorder Helpline and existing treatment options to assist those suffering with gambling addiction and related problems
- \$1.5 million to establish a state-managed retirement plan marketplace that will allow small businesses with less than 100 employees to provide optional retirement savings plans
- \$24.7 million to align grant payments to municipalities and counties with expected increase in Marihuana Regulation Fund revenues

HB 5516 passed 56-49.

HB 5517 provides appropriations for the Department of Transportation for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including the following:

- \$37.5 million for local bus operations
- \$36.4 million for new technology and mobility
- \$150 million for priority bridge investment

HB 5517 passed 56-49.

SB 817 is a FY 23-24 appropriations bill that includes funding for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) capital outlay projects. The projects included in the bill total \$27.3 million (M), all restricted funds. The bill funds 18 acquisition projects for a total of \$17.5M. The bill also provides funding for 35 development projects, totaling \$9.8M. I voted in favor of this bill because it provides funding for 53 projects to enhance the state's environment and improve recreational opportunities for citizens. **SB 817** passed 98-7.

HB 5502 provides appropriations for the Department of Labor and Economic Development for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- \$5 million to support communities businesses and workers during the transitions from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles and renewable energy
- \$16.1 million to provide grants that promote arts and culture
- \$54.8 million for the Going Pro program which helps employers design and implement worker recruitment and training programs
- \$150 million to increase the availability of housing and the affordability of housing. The funding will be used to build new single-family and multi-family units, renovation of existing single-family and multi-family homes, and for the energy efficiency improvements of existing units

- \$9 million to provide a 5 cents per gallon rebate to retailers selling ethanol blended fuel

HB 5502 passed 56-49.

HB 5514 provides appropriations for the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- \$258 million for the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission
- \$5.8 million to assist the Michigan Public Service Commission in fulfilling the obligations contained in the 2023 energy legislation
- \$1.9 million to provide more timely and comprehensive oversight of nursing homes
- \$5 million for a grant to a nonprofit green bank that provides credit enhancements to lenders, incentivizing more favorable rates and terms for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement loans to commercial, residential, and public entities
- \$1.3 million to provide grants to groups for the representation of residential utility customers
- \$1.1 million to implement enacted legislation regarding the training and registration of medication aides
- \$5.5 million for grants to businesses, nonprofit organizations, and local governments for planning, developing, designing, acquiring, or constructing renewable energy and electrification infrastructure projects
- \$250,000 to evaluate the effectiveness of implicit bias training for health professionals

HB 5514 passed 56-49.

HB 5513 provides appropriations for the Department of Insurance and Financial Services for the fiscal year 2024-25. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- \$1.3 million for Consumer Services and Protection
- \$660,000 for pharmacy benefit licensure and regulation
- \$250,000 for an insurance complaints and healthcare appeals outreach campaign

HB 5513 passed 56-49.

HB 5506 provides appropriations for the Department of Education for the 2024-25 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including the following:

- \$100,000 for the poet laureate
- \$500,000 for summer EBT food benefits
- \$16 million for state aid to libraries

HB 5506 passed 56-49.

HB 5096 allows the Michigan Strategic Fund to redesignate either undesignated or rescinded renaissance zones. I voted in favor of this bill because it will allow the Michigan Strategic Fund Board to be more flexible and responsive to the economic needs of the communities in the state. **HB 5096** passed 69-38.

HB 5534 requires the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) by May 1, 2026, to determine the operational cost of each trial court and develop legislative proposals on funding these operational costs. I voted in favor of this bill because it will ensure continued funding for courts and the justice system while getting one step closer to implementing the Trial Court Funding Commission's recommendations. **HB 5534** passed 56-51.

HBs 4523 and 4525 allow certain violent offenders to be participants in mental health courts and drug treatment courts, respectively, if the prosecutor, in consultation with the victim(s), and the judge consent. I voted in favor of both bills because family treatment courts are a necessary tool for the courts and DHHS to combat child abuse and neglect. These bills will also allow more individuals to receive the services they need by opening up treatment courts to individuals convicted of a violent crime with the consent of all parties involved. **HB 4523** passed 67-40. **HB 4525** passed 71-36.

HB 4343 would modify the statutory report that the Director of the Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) must submit to the Legislature on (deferred presentment service transactions (a.k.a. "payday lending")). I voted in favor of this bill because it will allow the Legislature to carefully review the payday lending industry and its presence in Michigan and take the appropriate legislative action, when necessary, to address concerns. **HB 4343** passed 96-11.

HB 5522 will add the MiLEAP director to Michigan's delegation to the Midwestern Higher Education Commission as a non-voting member. I voted in favor of this bill because with the creation of the new department and Higher Education Office, it is a good idea to include the MiLEAP director as a non-voting member to advise the voting members of the delegation. **HB 5522** passed 69-38.

SB 227 clarifies that Psychiatric Residential Treatment facilities (PRTFs) must comply with the Mental Health Code and DHHS promulgated rules in emergency situations involving children. I voted in favor of this bill because it is necessary to provide clarity for providers on how restraint and seclusion can be used during emergency situations between youth and staff at children's therapeutic group homes. **SB 227** passed 103-4.

SB 518 would extend the sunset on the interim teaching certification for special education from July 21, 2024 to July 21, 2027. I voted in favor of this bill because the ITC program is a critical tool to ensure that more people pursue special education. Allowing qualified individuals to work in the field while completing permanent certification eliminates a major barrier to entry into the profession and helps address the special education shortage the state continues to face. **SB 518** passed unanimously.

5/14

HB 5147 repeals the sunset for the Higher Education Authorization and Distance Education Reciprocal Exchange Act (HEADEREA) for six years. I voted in favor of this bill because the program is vital and eliminating the sunset ensures that our education institutions can continue their work without the risk of a sudden end to the program. **HB 5147** passed 80-27.

SBs 415-416 would amend the General Sales Tax Act (GSTA) and the Use Tax Act (UTA), respectively, to specify that, if a seller were licensed by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) as a micro brewer, obtaining a purchaser's MLCC licensee number would satisfy a requirement to obtain a purchaser's identifying information for the purposes of exemptions under those Acts. I voted in favor of both bills because they will assist in streamlining the record keeping for microbrewers and simplifies administrative processes for them as well. Both bills passed 101-6.

5/15

HB 5462 amends the Michigan Memorial Highway Act of 2001 to designate a portion of highway M-26 in Adams Township as "Private Wesley Vietti Karna Memorial Highway." I voted in favor of this bill because it appropriately honors a local veteran for their service. **HB 5462** passed unanimously.