

2023 CAPITOL UPDATE

YEAR IN REVIEW



For the first time in 55 years, the legislature adjourned Sine Die prior to December. The adjournment of the session sets in motion the timeline for numerous laws passed in 2023 to become effective in mid-February including an early presidential primary (Feb. 27), expansion of the earned income tax credit, repeal of right-to-work, gun safety regulations, repeal of the abortion ban, and the expansion of LGBTQ protections.

Two House members, Rep. Lori Stone (D-Warren) and Rep. Kevin Coleman (D-Westland), won their respective mayoral elections and will leave the House with a 54-54 tie until special elections are held in April 2024. The legislature returned on January 10, 2024.

The ACEC Political Affairs team tracked more than 100 bills affecting the business of engineering in 2023 and testified for many of the key bills listed below.

Meaningful connections between ACEC members and legislators occurred throughout the year, including meeting with US Senator Gary Peters in Washington DC (photo below), numerous virtual meetings on Legislative Day, and at three separate meet-and-greets throughout Michigan.



Front row: Matt Stacey (Wade Trim), Senator Gary Peters, Ron Brenke (ACEC/Michigan)

Middle row: Chris Cook (Abonmarche), Jayson Nault (Tetra Tech), Matt Davis (Wightman), Bob Rayl (RS Engineering), Barbara Arens (Cincar)

Back row: Dennis Louney (Spicer Group), Art Barrett (ACEC Chair), G. Ramanujam (Somat Engineering)

High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes



House Bills 4352 and 4353 authorize MDOT to designate a highway lane that is newly constructed using federal funds for the exclusive use of high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs), during a period determined by the department. The bills were introduced to allow HOV lanes on I-75 modernization project as originally planned. The bills were supported by ACEC, passed by the legislature, signed by the Governor (PA's 148 & 149 of 2023) and became effective on October 10, 2023.

Concrete Barriers in Work Zones



Senate Bill 43 was reintroduced from last session and is meant to provide greater protection for construction workers from traffic. The bill will require MDOT to use concrete barriers (or equivalent) for partial freeway closures greater than 3 days or at night. MDOT would have discretion in designing and placing the barriers. ACEC supported the bill which was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor (PA 164 of 2023) and became effective on October 19, 2023.

Drinking Water Plans/Testing for Schools and Child Care Centers



House Bill 4341, 4342 and Senate Bill 88 taken together would require schools and child care centers to develop a drinking water management plan within fifteen months after the bills take effect and update the plan at least every five years. Water would have to be tested every year (schools) or two years (child care centers), and water could be provided for drinking only if the presence of lead was shown to be below specified levels. The bills were signed by the Governor and became effective on October 24, 2023.

Certified Survey Map



Senate Bill 337 would amend 1970 PA 132, an Act that provides land surveys to be filed with a county register of deeds and requires those surveys to meet certain requirements. The bill would modernize several provisions to provide uniform standards for certified survey maps and to allow professional land surveyors to use new technology, such as GPS and computer-aided drafting (CAD), which would lead to improved accuracy in survey maps and would no longer require surveyors to use outdated techniques. This bill was initiated by the Architects, Engineers, Surveyors Legislative Committee (AESLC). The bill was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor (PA 238 of 2023) and is effective February 13, 2024.

QBS for State Agencies



ACEC is working with DTMB to find acceptable language to re-introduce the QBS bill that was passed in the last legislative session. Meetings are scheduled for early January to finalize language.

Land Division Act - Property Splits



Senate Bill 480 would amend Section 108 of the Land Division Act to increase, from four to 20, the number of parcels that the first 10 acres of a parent parcel or tract could be divided into. AESLC has concerns with the bill and met with bill sponsor Sen. Kevin Hertel on October 2 to seek modifications to the bill. Minor changes were made to the bill that did not address AESLC concerns, and the bill was passed out of the Senate Local Government committee on November 7. The bill has been referred to the House Local Government committee.

Design Build for Schools



House Bills 4603 and 4604 would allow a "design builder" to complete the design and construction of a public school. The bills received a hearing in the House Regulatory Reform Committee on October 3 and ACEC testified in opposition. Meetings have taken place with the bill sponsor (Rep. Liberati) to discuss language changes to HB 4603 and dropping HB 4604. To date, a substitute bill has not been finalized and the bills have not received another hearing.



Governor Whitmer's Growing Michigan Together Council

2024 Legislative Events



Legislative Day Webinar:

March 11, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

State Legislative Day:

March 13

In person, Lansing

[Registration for Legislative Day Events](#)

National Legislative Summit:

May 13 - 16

Washington, DC



Legislative Meet & Greet

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Michigan



Members of ACEC meet with Grand Rapids area legislators to discuss key legislative issues.

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Michigan

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*Met or exceeded 2023 Firm Goal

ACEC MI PAC



\$35,767 raised
Goal Exceeded



46 firms



256 individuals



\$27,581 raised
Goal Exceeded



36 firms



129 individuals



ACEC PAC