

2024 CAPITOL UPDATE

YEAR IN REVIEW



The Michigan Legislature adjourned on December 31, 2024, operating under a Democratic trifecta with narrow majorities. Despite this alignment, internal divisions and partisan conflicts limited productivity, leaving many Democratic priorities unresolved.

During the lame duck session, efforts to address key issues such as transportation funding and the Earned Sick Time Leave Act and Minimum Wage Statute faltered amid sharp partisan divides and attendance disruptions. House Republicans, led by future Speaker Matt Hall, exited the session in protest of stalled discussions, and attempts to reconvene were unsuccessful.

In the Senate, while some House-originated bills passed along party lines, major legislative initiatives failed to gain traction, leaving Democratic legislators divided and disappointed by unmet goals.



Ron Brenke, Governor Whitmer, Troy Hagon

QBS for State Agencies

House Bill 5654, which would have implemented Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) for state agencies, passed the House with a vote of 70-38 on December 10. Unfortunately, the Senate Government Operations Committee did not have time to hold a hearing on the bill, and efforts to discharge it to the Senate Floor were unsuccessful. The Governor's position on the bill remained unclear.

Automated Speed Enforcement Systems

PAs 164 & 165 - Michigan has new laws that allow for automated speed enforcement in work zones.

Michigan will use automated speed enforcement systems in work zones to reduce speeding and protect construction workers. The systems will use light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology to determine vehicle speeds and record license plate images. Drivers who exceed the speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour will receive a warning for the first violation, and a fine for subsequent violations.

ACEC/Michigan supported the bills in the House and Senate.

Land Division Act

Senate Bill 480 passed the Senate on November 8, 2023, and moved to the House Local Government Committee, where it advanced to the House Floor on December 11. However, the H-2 substitute version, which reduced permissible land splits from 20 to 10 (current statute allows 4 splits) and granted municipalities/counties approval authority for further splits, faced significant opposition and did not pass the House. ACEC worked closely with MTA, MML, MSPS and others to make necessary amendments to the bill.

2025 Legislative Events



Legislative Day Webinar:
April 8, 9:30 AM

State Legislative Day:
April 15
Lansing, Michigan

National Legislative Summit:
May 18 - 21
Washington, DC

Property Reuse-Driven Cleanup Standards

SBs 605 - 611 - The Property Reuse-Driven Cleanup Standards (Polluter Pay) bills were discharged from the Senate Energy and Environment Committee to the Senate Floor on December 13, where Substitute S-1 passed along party lines (20-13).

These bills faced substantial opposition from the business community, which argued that the proposed changes would increase legal liability, inflate costs for brownfield redevelopment, and deter private investment, potentially exacerbating urban blight. ACEC/Michigan, responding to concerns from member firms, joined the opposition to these measures. The bills ultimately stalled in the House.

Interior Design Licensure

House Bills 5960, 5961 and 5962 proposed licensure for interior designers to seal construction documents and handle space reconfigurations. While the bills received a hearing, they did not advance out of the House Regulatory Reform Committee.

ACEC/Michigan raised significant concerns:

- Plan Reviewer Impact: Added complexity and risk of errors in determining the qualifications of professionals sealing construction documents.
- Scope of Work: Interior space reconfigurations often affect engineered systems (ventilation, structural integrity, air quality) requiring licensed architects and engineers.
- Public Safety: Licensure is unnecessary for protecting health, safety, and welfare and may create confusion and risks in critical design areas.



L to R: Jon Kramer, Cheryl Gregory, US Rep. Haley Stevens, Mike Cooper and Ron Brenke



ACEC Michigan Members at National Legislative Summit

Statewide Septic Code

Michigan is the only state without a statewide septic code, which has led to concerns about failing systems releasing significant amounts of untreated sewage, potentially impacting public health and water quality. Many homeowners are unaware of proper septic system maintenance practices.

Recent legislative efforts (SBs 299 & 300, HBs 4479 & 4480) proposed measures to address these issues, including:

- Mandatory inspections every five years
- Repairs within six months of a system failure
- \$1,000 fines per 30 days of non-compliance
- Misdemeanor penalties for false reporting

While these bills aimed to create a framework for septic system management, they did not advance in the Legislature. Discussions on establishing statewide standards for septic system construction, maintenance, and inspection remain ongoing, with ACEC/Michigan closely monitoring potential solutions.

Other Stalled Legislation

Several legislative proposals failed to move forward, including:

- Low-income water affordability measures
- Bans on ghost guns and bump stocks
- Police reforms
- Expanding FOIA to include the legislature and Governor's office
- Licensing requirements for tobacco and nicotine product sellers
- A \$400 million appropriation for Detroit Public Schools
- Extending statute of limitations for sexual abuse victims
- Greater transparency requirements for charter schools
- Creation of a public safety and violence prevention fund

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***Met or exceeded 2024 Firm Goal**

ACEC MI PAC



\$36,212 raised
Goal Exceeded



45 firms



232 individuals



\$30,981 raised
Goal Exceeded



39 firms



129 individuals



ACEC PAC