



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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MAPT Legislative Committee Update

January 21, 2010

The MAPT Legislative Committee is actively working on the following key legislative initiatives:

- **HB 5363** – is moving along with very few hurdles in Lansing. This is the bill that would enable Michigan school districts and private contractors to **change from the annual school bus driver physical to a two-year DOT physical**. Most school bus drivers would likely be eligible for the two-year physical schedule (except diabetic drivers on insulin). The bill is not mandatory, but is “enabling” in that it would enable districts/contractors to save money on driver physicals by going to a two-year DOT physical instead of the current annual MDE physical. The two-year physical lines up with the DOT requirements for the rest of the transportation industry (commercial truck and bus drivers, etc.). MAPT’s Legislative Committee anticipates HB 5363 to pass the House and Senate and be on its way to the Governor’s desk for approval in February/March 2010.
- **HB 5653** – is the **focus of several MAPT Legislative Committee meetings** held in recent weeks. This is the bill that was the first of several House and Senate bills introduced to open discussion on reform of the MSP bus inspection program. There is great interest in reform of the program and has legislators lining up to be part of the action. Some things seem certain: *Self inspection* – There is much support within legislative leadership to include some element of “self inspection” as part of the process. *Training of inspectors* and *Third Party Oversight* – A major component of this bill includes the training and certification of “third party” bus inspectors.

The MAPT Legislative Committee has held several meetings with representatives from MSBO, MASA, private contractors, the insurance industry, along with key legislative staffers. The MAPT Legislative Committee recommends that whatever changes or reform that comes of all of this is reflective of efforts to **improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local bus maintenance programs**. Over the coming weeks, the MAPT Legislative Committee’s focus will be to identify reform components and work to include these changes on the Senate side. In terms of timing, it appears that the *Race to the Top* educational initiative is taking priority at the present time. It is most likely that we will be **well into March 2010 or beyond before a whole package is put together** and worked through the legislative process. **HB 5742** and **HB 5743** – are two new shell bills recently introduced as more members jump on the bandwagon as part of the bus inspection reform packages. The MAPT Legislative Committee **is not concerned** with these two particular bills at this time.
- **SB 1073** – was introduced on January 20 by Senators BIRKHOLZ, BISHOP, GEORGE, CROPSEY, CASSIS and JELINEK. As introduced, this bill would **penalize school districts** of 1,000 or more students **who spend more than 28 percent** of its General Fund budget **on support services** (combination of transportation/food service/maintenance/etc). **Out of compliance districts would suffer a 5 percent cut in State Aid** until support service spending is reduced to under the 28 percent limit. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Reforms and Restructuring. The MAPT Legislative Committee **will be closely monitoring** this bill.

Respectfully,

Paul R. Wegmeyer, Chair
MAPT Legislative Committee