

Budget Talks Must Quicken to Meet the October 1 Deadline

With the October 1 start of the new fiscal year looming, progress on negotiations for the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year budget have stalled. Budget targets still have not been set for the 2009 - 2010 appropriations.

The House and Senate passed widely different budget bills earlier this summer. Governor Granholm and legislative Democrats have said the state needs to **raise new revenue** on top of the federal stimulus money to avoid excessive cuts to programs. Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and the Republican-controlled Senate prefer the plan it passed to solve the \$2.8 billion deficit through **spending cuts** and the stimulus funds.

The substance of meetings among the four legislative leaders and Governor Granholm have largely been kept secret. Hopefully, lawmakers and the administration will speed up the pace of budget negotiations when they return to a regular session schedule after Labor Day. School districts and universities all suffer when state government is late in adopting a budget; and a repeat of the 2007 government shutdown will harm **everyone**. **PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS AND URGE PASSAGE OF FULLY FUNDED EDUCATION BUDGETS.** (See July Capitol Report for talking points – view on line at www.aftmichigan.org)

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“Michigan Health Benefits Program Act”

In July, House Speaker Andy Dillon announced his proposal for a mandatory state government-run health plan for all public employees. This government-run health care plan would be **matched against the benefits received by public sector employees in other states**. A draft of the main bill creating this plan has been released and will be introduced during House session on September 2.

The Michigan Health Benefits Program Act:

- creates a **mandatory state government-run health plan** housed in the Department of Management and Budget, governed by a state Health Benefits Board and administered by the Office of State Employer;

- mandates all state, city, village, township, and county governments, agencies, school districts, public school academies, ISDs, community colleges, and public universities as well as all public retirement systems, to participate in employee health care plans from the state benefits plan;
- **severely restricts collective bargaining** between public employers and employees to choosing from a set menu of plans and plan designs approved by the Health Benefits Board;
- requires that all school districts, public school academies, ISDs, community colleges, public universities, and local governments are **financially liable for any budget shortfalls** in the government-run fund;
- extends a public health plan purchase option to the private sector;
- puts state government between doctors and their patients and gives **government a major role in patient health care decisions** by mandating "use of clinical advocates to review diagnoses and care for correct treatment";
- gives the Office of State Employer authority to **create a new bureaucracy** and hire an executive director and staff to administer the program;
- allows school districts, public school academies, ISDs, community colleges, public universities, and local governments to opt-out of the program if they **pay for an actuarial study** proving that the plan they offer is more than 5% less expensive than the government-run plan (*must apply for approval at least 9 months prior to expiration of current contract*);
- **Does not require or expand employee health care coverage;**
- All mandatory, government-run state **health care plan costs will be passed** on to the employers and employees.

AFT Michigan and the entire Michigan AFL-CIO are opposed to this proposal. **PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS TODAY TO EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS!** (*See July Capitol Report for talking points – view on line at www.aftmichigan.org*)

Members Appointed to New Health Insurance Committee

A new committee has been created to review the state mandated government-run health care plan for all public employees. Representative Pam Byrnes (D-Chelsea) is the chair of this **new Public Employee Healthcare Reform Committee**.

Also included on the committee are Representatives Tim Melton (D-Auburn Hills), Harold Haugh (D-Roseville), Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park), Michael Lahti (D-Hancock), Daniel Scripps (D-Leland), Kate Segal (D-Battle Creek), Woodrow Stanley (D-Flint), Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), James Bolger (R-Marshall), Bob Genetski (R-Saugatuck), Matt Lori (R-Constantine) and Bill Rogers (R-Brighton).

Union Leaders Unite to Challenge Dillon's Health Care Plan

On July 31, **AFT Michigan President, David Hecker**, joined twelve other state labor leaders in signing a letter to House Speaker Andy Dillon challenging the cost-saving assumptions in his proposal to create a government-operated health insurance system for Michigan's 400,000 public employees. All unions support the need for health care cost reduction, but not through benefit reductions or sacrificing collective bargaining rights for their members. Union officials urged Dillon to allow the national health care debate to unfold before going forward with any state reform.

We want to thank several AFT Michigan leaders for traveling to Lansing on August 11, from as far away as Rudyard, to speak at a press conference on the steps of the State Capitol. We greatly appreciate their time and assistance with our efforts to defeat a mandated, government-run health care proposal. Our sincere thanks to:

**Bonnie Halloran, President of the Lecturers' Employee Organization, U of M
Steve Wilson, President of the Rudyard Federation of Teachers
Max Boettger, Secretary of the Onaway Federation of Teachers**

Senate Passes Clarification of Algebra II Requirement

Senate Bill 698 (Kuipers, R-Holland) would permit a pupil to meet the Algebra II requirement of the Michigan Merit Curriculum by completing an **approved career and technical education program that had embedded math content.**

Under current law, the district school board may not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless he or she meets the credit requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum, which include at least four credits in math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, or an integrated sequence of that course content that consists of three credits. A pupil may complete Algebra II over two years with two credits awarded.

Under Senate Bill 698, a pupil may complete Algebra II over two years with two credits awarded **or** over 1.5 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purpose of meeting that requirement. A pupil could also fulfill the Algebra II requirement by completing a formal career and technical education program or curriculum that is approved by the Department of Education and has embedded math content, including a program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering, or renewable energy.

Within 30 days after the bill's effective date, the Department would have to post on its website and submit to the Senate and House Education Committees guidelines for implementing that provision.

Senator Kuipers explained that this legislation does not actually change the required math curriculum, it just clarifies that these credits can be satisfied through career and technical education classes. **Senate Bill 698 has passed the senate and is currently before the House Education Committee. AFT Michigan supports this bill.**

House Considers Changes to Graduation Requirements

At the same time, the House is also considering legislation to revise the existing Michigan Merit Curriculum. The House Education Committee has approved **House Bill 4410 (H-3) (Sheltrown, D-West Branch)** which makes it clear that the Algebra II requirement in the state graduation standards can be met either through a specific Algebra II course or through career and technical education courses that includes the math elements.

Under House Bill 4410, students would be required to **successfully complete four credits in mathematics**. These credits would include at least:

- one credit in Algebra I
- one credit in geometry earned in a geometry course or the integrated equivalent in a career and technical course
- and one credit earned in either a financial literacy course, an algebra II course, or the integrated equivalent in a career and technical education course

The bill maintains the current requirement that each student must successfully complete at least one math course during their final year of high school.

House Bill 4410 is currently awaiting action before the full House. AFT Michigan supports this bill.

Modified Math Graduation Requirements and Personal Curriculum

House Bill 4511 (H-2)(Geiss, D-Taylor) would alter the process by which a personal curriculum can be sought for a high school student in order to modify the standard Michigan Merit Curriculum as follows:

1. It would specify that a personal curriculum could be sought for a student who had completed Grade 9 (rather than in the last semester of the tenth grade).
2. It would expand the list of those who could request the personal curriculum on behalf of a student to include **teachers and counselors (in addition to parents)**. House Bill 4511 also specifies that a teacher or school counselor could contact the student's parent or guardian to discuss the possibility and potential benefits of a personal curriculum.
3. It would include the student's teacher along with the student, a parent and a school counselor in the development of the personal curriculum.
4. It would allow modification of the high school mathematics requirements to occur after a student has completed 1 ½ credits of math, without necessarily having attained a passing grade, instead of successfully completed 2 ½ credits. (This bill would delete the current requirement that the student must compete at least two mathematics credits before the Algebra II requirement could be modified.)

House Bill 4511 has passed the House and is currently awaiting action before the Senate Education Committee. AFT Michigan supports this bill.

Senate Republicans Propose “Neighborhood Public Schools”

The Senate Education Committee has approved a package of four bills to create independent “neighborhood public schools.” The proposal would permit a current traditional public school to be converted with a majority vote of the teachers and parents of students in the building. The “neighborhood public school” would enter into a contract with the Michigan Department of Education and would have to agree to achieve certain performance standards or lose the contract.

The State Board of Education, mayors of large cities, a “neighborhood public school corporation” formed by a teacher, local governments, intermediate school districts, community colleges, public universities and various agencies of state government could obtain contracts for the “neighborhood schools.” Specifically excluded from creating the “neighborhood public schools” will be churches and religious organizations. Priority for “neighborhood school contracts” would be given to schools with large numbers of at-risk students or those that have not met academic yearly progress requirements for at least two years.

Under the proposal, schools could set up with specific emphasis such as schools focusing on college preparation or on technical skills. The package would also allow for Early Childhood Learning Centers, which would provide education services to pre-school and kindergarten students along with cyber schools, dropout recovery centers and career education high schools.

Senate Bill 636 (Kuipers, R-Holland), creates “neighborhood schools,” Senate Bill 637 (Cassis, R-Novi), provides funding for “neighborhood schools,” Senate Bill 638 (Birkholz, R-Saugatuck) provides exemption from Teacher Tenure Act for “neighborhood school,” and Senate Bill 639 (Hardiman, R-Kentwood) provides for “neighborhood public schools” in Public Employment Relations Act.

This package is currently before the full Senate. **AFT Michigan opposes this legislation in its current form.**

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2009 MICHIGAN SENATE

Post Office Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536
21 Republicans - 16 Democrats - 1 Vacancy

Name/Area	Party/ District	Office	Phone 517-373
Allen, Jason- Traverse City	R- 37	820 FB	2413
Anderson, Glenn- Westland	D- 6	610 FB	1707
Barcia, Jim- Bay City	D- 31	1010 FB	1777
Basham, Raymond- Taylor	D- 8	715 FB	7800
Birkholz, Patricia- Saugatuck	R- 24	805 FB	3447
Bishop, Mike- Rochester	R- 12	106 CB	2417
Brater, Liz- Ann Arbor	D- 18	510 FB	2406
Brown, Cameron- Fawn River Twp	R- 16	405 FB	5932
Cassis, Nancy- Novi	R- 15	905 FB	1758
Cherry, Deborah- Burton	D- 26	910 FB	1636
Clark- Coleman, Irma- Detroit	D- 3	310 FB	0990
Clarke, Hansen- Detroit	D- 1	710 FB	7346
Cropsey, Alan- DeWitt	R- 33	8 CB	3760
Garcia, Valde- Howell	R- 22	132 CB	2420
George, Thomas- Kalamazoo	R- 20	320 FB	0793
Gilbert, Judson- Algonac	R- 25	705 FB	7708
Gleason, John- Flushing	D- 27	315 CB	0142
Hardiman, Bill- Kentwood	R- 29	305 FB	1801
Hunter, Tupac- Detroit	D- 5	915 FB	0994
Jacobs, Gilda- Huntington Woods	D- 14	1015 FB	7888
Jansen, Mark- Gaines Township	R- 28	520 FB	0797
Jelinek, Ron- Three Oaks	R- 21	324 CB	6960
Kahn, Roger- Saginaw	R- 32	420 FB	1760
Kuipers, Wayne- Holland	R- 30	1005 FB	6920
McManus, Michelle- Lake Leelanau	R- 35	2 CB	1725
Olshove, Dennis- Warren	D- 9	920 FB	8360
Pappageorge, John- Troy	R- 13	1020 FB	2523
Patterson, Bruce- Canton	R- 7	505 FB	7350
Prusi, Michael- Ishpeming	D- 38	105 CB	7840
Richardville, Randy- Monroe	R- 17	205 FB	3543
Sanborn, Alan- Richmond	R- 11	310 CB	7670
Scott, Martha- Highland Park	D- 2	220 FB	7748
Stamas, Tony- Midland	R- 36	720 FB	7946
Switalski, Michael- Roseville	D- 10	410 FB	7315
Thomas III, Samuel Buzz- Detroit	D- 4	9 CB	7918
Van Woerkom, Gerald- Muskegon	R- 34	605 FB	1635
Whitmer, Gretchen- East Lansing	D- 23	415 FB	1734
Vacancy	19	FB	2426

FB = Farnum Bldg. HOB = House Office Bldg. CB = Capitol Bldg.

2009 MICHIGAN HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
Post Office Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514
67 Democrats - 43 Republicans

Name/Area	Party/ District	Office	Phone 517-373
Agema, David- Grandville	R- 74	1093 HOB	8900
Amash, Justin- Kentwood	R- 72	1091 HOB	0840
Angerer, Kathy- Dundee	D- 55	153 CB	1792
Ball, Richard- Laingsburg	R- 85	1189 HOB	0841
Barnett, Vicki- Farmington Hills	D- 37	886 HOB	1793
Bauer, Joan- Lansing	D- 68	1087 HOB	0826
Bennett, Doug- Muskegon	D- 92	1196 HOB	2646
Bledsoe, Timothy- Grosse Pointe	D- 1	585 HOB	0154
Bolger, James- Marshall	R- 63	997 HOB	1787
Booher, Darwin- Evart	R- 102	1386 HOB	1747
Brown, Lisa- West Bloomfield	D- 39	888 HOB	1799
Brown, Terry- Pigeon	D- 84	1188 HOB	0476
Byrnes, Pam- Chelsea	D- 52	251 CB	0828
Byrum, Barb- Onondaga	D- 67	1086 HOB	0587
Calley, Brain- Portland	R- 87	1191 HOB	0842
Caul, Bill- Mount Pleasant	R- 99	1288 HOB	1789
Clemente, Ed- Lincoln Park	D- 14	693 HOB	0140
Constan, Bob- Dearborn Heights	D- 16	695 HOB	0849
Corriveau, Marc- Northville	D- 20	699 HOB	3816
Coulouris, Andy- Saginaw	D- 95	1199 HOB	0152
Crawford, Hugh- Novi	R- 38	887 HOB	0827
Cushingberry Jr., George- Detroit	D- 8	351 CB	2276
Daley, Kevin- Arcadia Township	R- 82	1186 HOB	1800
Dean, Robert- Grand Rapids	D- 75	1094 HOB	2668
Denby, Cindy- Fowlerville	R- 47	896 HOB	8835
DeShazor, Larry- Portage	R- 61	995 HOB	1774
Dillon, Andy- Redford Township	D- 17	164 CB	0857
Donigan, Marie- Royal Oak	D- 26	790 HOB	3818
Durhal, Fred- Detroit	D- 6	685 HOB	0844
Ebli, Kate- Monroe	D- 56	990 HOB	2617
Elsenheimer, Kevin- Bellaire	R- 105	721 HOB	0829
Espinoza, John- Crowsell	D- 83	1187 HOB	0835
Geiss, Douglas- Taylor	D- 22	786 HOB	0852
Genetski, Bob- Saugatuck	R- 88	1192 HOB	0836
Gonzales, Lee- Flint	D- 49	898 HOB	7515
Green, Kevin- Wyoming	R- 77	1096 HOB	2277
Gregory, Vincent- Southfield	D- 35	799 HOB	1788
Griffin, Martin- Jackson	D- 64	998 HOB	1795
Haase, Jennifer- Richmond	D- 32	796 HOB	8931
Haines, Gail- Waterford	R- 43	892 HOB	0615
Hammel, Richard- Flushing	D- 48	897 HOB	7557
Hansen, Geoff- Hart	R- 100	1289 HOB	7317
Haugh, Harold- Roseville	D- 42	891 HOB	0854
Haveaman, Joseph- Holland	R- 90	1194 HOB	0830
Hildenbrand, David- Lowell	R- 86	141 CB	0846
Horn, Kenneth- Frankenmuth	R- 94	1198 HOB	0837
Huckleberry, Mike- Greenville	D- 70	1089 HOB	0834
Jackson, Shanelle- Detroit	D- 9	688 HOB	1705
Johnson, Bert- Highland Park	D- 5	589 HOB	0144
Jones, Rick- Grand Ledge	R- 71	1090 HOB	0853
Jones, Robert- Kalamazoo	D- 60	994 HOB	1785
Kandreas, Andrew- Southgate	D- 13	692 HOB	0845

Name/Area	Party/ District	Office	Phone 517-373
Kennedy, Deb- Brownstown	D- 23	787 HOB	0855
Knollenberg, Marty- Troy	R- 41	890 HOB	1783
Kowall, Eileen- White Lake	R- 44	893 HOB	2616
Kurtz, Kenneth- Coldwater	R- 58	992 HOB	1794
Lahti, Michael- Hancock	D- 110	1489 HOB	0850
LeBlanc, Richard- Westland	D- 18	697 HOB	2576
Leland, Gabe- Detroit	D- 10	689 HOB	6990
Lemmons Jr., LaMar- Detroit	D- 2	586 HOB	0106
Lindberg, Steven- Marquette	D- 109	1488 HOB	0498
Lipton, Ellen- Huntington Woods	D- 27	791 HOB	0478
Liss, Lesia- Warren	D- 28	792 HOB	2275
Lori, Matt- Constantine	R- 59	993 HOB	0832
Lund, Pete- Shelby Twp	R- 36	885 HOB	0843
Marleau, Jim- Lake Orion	R- 46	895 HOB	1798
Mayes, Jeff- Bay City	D- 96	1285 HOB	0158
McDowell, Gary- Rudyard	D- 107	1486 HOB	2629
McMillin, Tom- Rochester Hills	R- 45	894 HOB	1773
Meadows, Mark- East Lansing	D- 69	374 CB	1786
Meekhof, Arlan- West Olive	R- 89	1193 HOB	0838
Melton, Tim- Auburn Hills	D- 29	793 HOB	0475
Meltzer, Kimberly- Clinton Township	R- 33	797 HOB	0820
Miller, Fred- Mount Clemens	D- 31	795 HOB	0159
Moore, Tim- Farwell	R- 97	1286 HOB	8962
Moss, Chuck- Birmingham	R- 40	889 HOB	8670
Nathan, David- Detroit	D- 11	690 HOB	3815
Nerat, Judy- Wallace	D- 108	1487 HOB	0156
Neumann, Andy- Alpena	D- 106	1485 HOB	0833
Opsommer, Paul- DeWitt	R- 93	1197 HOB	1778
Pavlov, Phil- St. Clair	R- 81	1185 HOB	1790
Pearce, Tom- Rockford	R- 73	1092 HOB	0218
Polidori, Gino- Dearborn	D- 15	694 HOB	0847
Proos IV, John- St. Joseph	R- 79	1098 HOB	1403
Roberts, Sarah- St. Clair Shores	D- 24	788 HOB	0113
Rocca, Tory- Sterling Heights	R- 30	794 HOB	7768
Rogers, Bill- Brighton	R- 66	1085 HOB	1784
Schmidt, Roy- Grand Rapids	D- 76	1095 HOB	0822
Schmidt, Wayne- Traverse City	R- 104	1388 HOB	1766
Schuitmaker, Tonya- Lawton	R- 80	1099 HOB	0839
Scott, Bettie Cook- Detroit	D- 3	587 HOB	1776
Scott, Paul- Grand Blanc	R- 51	985 HOB	1780
Scripps, Dan- Northport	D- 101	1385 HOB	0825
Segal, Kate- Battle Creek	D- 62	996 HOB	0555
Sheltrown, Joel- West Branch	D- 103	1387 HOB	3817
Simpson, Mike- Jackson	D- 65	999 HOB	1775
Slavens, Dian- Canton Twp	D- 21	785 HOB	2575
Slezak, Jim- Davison	D- 50	899 HOB	3906
Smith, Alma Wheeler- Ypsilanti	D- 54	988 HOB	1771
Spade, Dudley- Tipton	D- 57	991 HOB	1706
Stamas, Jim- Midland	R- 98	1287 HOB	1791
Stanley, Woodrow- Flint	D- 34	798 HOB	8808
Switalski, Jon- Warren	D- 25	789 HOB	1772
Tlaib, Rashida- Detroit	D- 12	691 HOB	0823
Tyler, Sharon- Niles	R- 78	1097 HOB	1796
Valentine, Mary- Muskegon	D- 91	1195 HOB	3436
Walsh, John- Livonia	R- 19	698 HOB	3920
Warren, Rebekah- Ann Arbor	D- 53	987 HOB	2577
Young, Jr., Coleman- Detroit	D- 4	588 HOB	1008

What's Up at the Capitol

Budget Talks Must Quicken to Meet the October 1 Deadline	1
“Michigan Health Benefits Program Act”	1
Members Appointed to New Health Insurance Committee	2
Union Leaders Unite to Challenge Dillon’s Health Care Plan	2
Senate Passes Clarification of Algebra II Requirement	3
House Considers Changes to Graduation Requirements	3
Modified Math Graduation Requirements and Personal Curriculum	4
Senate Republicans Propose “Neighborhood Public Schools”	4
Legislative Directory	6