

Lame Duck Watch Overview

Lame Duck is a legislative period occurring after an election, but before newly elected officials take office. During this time, lawmakers may try to pass bills that are challenging or controversial. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) tracks these bills closely to advocate for a favorable business climate in Greater Lansing. Below is the LRCC's position on key bills during this Lame Duck session.

The bills below that the LRCC is supporting and opposing were reviewed and voted on by the **LRCC Policy Committee**, ensuring they align with our Chamber's **Policy 2024 policy areas**.

For members interested in looking up each bill individually, you can visit the [Michigan State Legislative website](#), enter the bill number into the Quick Search, and view full details and progress on each piece of legislation.

(Last updated: 11-21-2024)

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Bills, Positions, and Reasons

1. Senate Bill 19

Proposes amendments to the Tax Tribunal Act to adjust the tribunal's jurisdiction over certain property tax assessment disputes.

LRCC Position: Following

Reason: Changes in jurisdiction may have implications for how businesses handle property tax disputes, warranting close observation.

2. Senate Bill 20

Amends the General Property Tax Act to modify the process for appealing specific assessment-related disputes concerning certain properties.

LRCC Position: Following

Reason: Potential adjustments to the appeals process could impact businesses' ability to address property tax concerns effectively.

3. Senate Bill 228

Repeals act preempting local regulation of plastic bags and other containers.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: The LRCC opposes this bill as it could lead to a patchwork of local regulations, creating compliance challenges for businesses operating in multiple jurisdictions.

4. Senate Bill 293

Modifies housing and community development fund.

LRCC Position: Support

Reason: Supporting this bill aligns with the LRCC's commitment to enhancing

housing development, which can stimulate economic growth and community development.

5. Senate Bill 329

Modifies duties of processing of a claim.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: The LRCC opposes this bill due to concerns that it may increase administrative burdens and costs for businesses in processing claims.

6. Senate Bill 453

Expands and revises beverages and beverage containers subject to bottle deposit and distribution of revenue.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Keep Groceries Affordable

Reason: The LRCC believes this expansion could raise operational costs for retailers and distributors, potentially leading to higher prices for consumers.

7. Senate Bill 605

Requires cleanup standards.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: The LRCC is concerned that the proposed standards may impose stringent requirements, hindering redevelopment efforts and increasing costs for businesses.

8. Senate Bill 606

Requires cleanup to residential and safe drinking water standards unless technically infeasible.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Mandating such cleanup levels could be economically burdensome for businesses, especially when technical feasibility is in question.

9. Senate Bill 607

Excludes definition of a rule for cleanup criteria and target detection limits.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: The LRCC opposes this exclusion as it may lead to inconsistent application of cleanup standards, creating uncertainty for businesses.

10. Senate Bill 608

Requires financial assurance for any facility required to file a pollution incident prevention plan.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: This requirement could impose additional financial burdens on businesses, particularly small enterprises, affecting their operational viability.

11. Senate Bill 609

Revises limitation period for filing actions.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Extending the limitation period may increase legal uncertainties and liabilities for businesses over extended periods.

12. Senate Bill 610

Provides action for medical monitoring for individuals exposed to a proven toxic substance.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: The LRCC is concerned that this provision could lead to increased litigation and associated costs for businesses.

13. Senate Bill 611

Revises accrual of cause of action for groundwater contamination cases.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Modifying the accrual could expose businesses to prolonged liability periods, affecting long-term planning and investments.

14. Senate Bill 632

Prohibits deferred presentment service transactions that charge service fees greater than an annual rate of 36%.

LRCC Position: Support

Reason: Supporting this bill aligns with the LRCC's commitment to fair lending practices, ensuring consumers are protected from predatory lending rates.

15. Senate Bill 901 - 903

Tenant's Bill of Rights, aiming to provide tenants with additional protections.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: The LRCC is tracking these bills to assess implications for the business and rental housing markets.

16. Senate Bill 1053

This bill proposes the creation of a "road construction business loss reimbursement program" to provide grants to businesses that experience revenue losses due to unexpected street closures or extended construction projects. The grants would compensate for revenue declines up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year.

LRCC Position: Following

Reason: The LRCC supports this bill as it offers financial relief to businesses adversely affected by prolonged or unforeseen road construction, thereby promoting economic stability within the community.

17. Senate Bill 1079

This bill seeks to modify requirements regarding wage-earning capacity in the context of workers' compensation benefits. It amends several sections of the Workers' Disability Compensation Act of 1969 to adjust how wage-earning capacity is assessed and benefits are calculated.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: The LRCC opposes this bill due to concerns that the proposed changes could lead to increased workers' compensation costs for employers, potentially impacting business operations and financial planning.

18. Senate Bill 1080

This bill aims to modify compensation provisions for deaths resulting from personal injuries under workers' compensation. It proposes amendments to several sections of the Workers' Disability Compensation Act of 1969, potentially altering benefit structures for dependents of deceased workers.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: The LRCC opposes this bill as it may increase the financial burden on employers by expanding death benefit obligations, which could affect the overall cost of doing business in the region.

19. House Bill 4359

Repeals act preempting local regulation of plastic bags and other containers.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: Similar to SB 228, the LRCC opposes this bill due to concerns over inconsistent local regulations affecting business operations.

20. House Bill 4681

Modifies duties for processing of a claim.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Don't Touch MI Rates

Reason: The LRCC believes this modification could lead to increased processing times and costs for businesses handling claims.

21. House Bill 4904

Expands and revises beverages and beverage containers subject to bottle deposit and distribution of revenue.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Keep Groceries Affordable

Reason: The LRCC is concerned that this expansion could increase operational complexities and costs for retailers, impacting consumer prices.

22. House Bill 4947

Proposes repealing rent control prohibitions, potentially allowing local rent control policies.

LRCC Position: Following

Reason: The LRCC is monitoring this bill to evaluate the potential economic impact of repealing rent control prohibitions and how it may affect housing availability and workforce affordability.

23. House Bill 5236 - 5237

Tenant's Bill of Rights, aiming to provide tenants with additional protections.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Reason: The LRCC is observing these bills to understand their potential impact on landlord-tenant relationships and local rental markets.

24. House Bill 5241

Provides action for medical monitoring for individuals exposed to a proven toxic substance.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Similar to SB 610, the LRCC opposes this bill due to potential increases in litigation and associated costs for businesses.

25. House Bill 5242

Requires cleanup to residential and safe drinking water standards unless technically infeasible.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: This requirement could place significant financial burdens on businesses, particularly when technical feasibility may be unattainable.

26. House Bill 5243

Revises limitation period for filing actions.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Extending this period could lead to greater long-term liabilities for businesses, affecting strategic planning and investment decisions.

27. House Bill 5244

Revises accrual of cause of action for groundwater contamination cases.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: The LRCC is concerned that modifying accrual rules could lead to more extended exposure to litigation for businesses.

28. House Bill 5245

Excludes cleanup criteria and target detection limits from the definition of a rule.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Excluding these criteria may create inconsistency in cleanup efforts, leading to regulatory uncertainties for businesses.

29. House Bill 5246

Requires financial assurance for any facility required to file a pollution incident prevention plan.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: Imposing this requirement could result in substantial financial constraints for smaller facilities, impacting their operations.

30. House Bill 5247

Requires cleanup standards.

LRCC Position: Oppose

Coalition: Retain Brownfield & Urban Investment Laws for Development (#RebuildMI)

Reason: The LRCC opposes this bill due to concerns over the financial burden and feasibility of meeting these mandated standards.

31. House Bill 5865

Proposes amendments to the General Property Tax Act to prohibit the use of sales of certain deed-restricted properties as comparable sales for assessment purposes in specific circumstances.

LRCC Position: Following

Reason: Changes in comparable sales usage could impact property valuation and tax assessments, requiring careful monitoring for potential business implications.

32. House Bill 5868

Amends the Tax Tribunal Act to require specific determinations in assessment disputes regarding property valuation.

LRCC Position: Following

Reason: Adjustments to valuation dispute processes could affect the predictability and fairness of property tax appeals.

33. [House Bill 6056](#)

Proposes gradual minimum wage increases while preserving the tip credit system through 2029.

LRCC Position: Support

Reason: This phased increase balances the need to raise wages while allowing businesses to adjust responsibly, which aligns with LRCC's commitment to economic growth and workforce development.

34. [House Bill 6057](#)

Refines Michigan's paid sick leave requirements with clarified definitions and employer-friendly provisions.

LRCC Position: Support

Reason: This bill offers greater flexibility and clarity for businesses in managing

paid sick leave policies, aligning with LRCC's goals of supporting business-friendly policies that address workforce needs effectively,

35. House Bills 6108–6111: Sand and Gravel Mining Regulations

These bills, tie-barred to each other, propose modifications to the regulations governing sand and gravel mining operations in Michigan. The legislation aims to streamline permitting processes, establish consistent statewide standards, and balance environmental considerations with industry needs.

- **House Bill 6108:** Amends Section 9115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (1994 PA 451) and introduces Part 639, focusing on the regulation of sand and gravel mining operations.
- **House Bill 6109:** Proposes amendments to existing statutes to align with the new regulations introduced in HB 6108.
- **House Bill 6110:** Further modifies related sections to ensure cohesive implementation of the updated mining regulations.
- **House Bill 6111:** Introduces additional provisions to support the regulatory framework established by the preceding bills.

LRCC Position: Support

Reason: The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce supports these bills as they aim to create a more efficient and predictable regulatory environment for sand and gravel mining operations. By establishing uniform standards and streamlining permitting processes, the legislation is expected to facilitate economic development while maintaining necessary environmental safeguards.

Coalition: Build It Michigan Strong

This coalition advocates for policies that promote infrastructure development and economic growth within Michigan.