



March 2022 Legislative Update

MTA actively monitors all introduced bills with particular attention to those that may directly affect trucking operations. We are currently tracking the following bills:

- **House Bill 4148** eliminates the possibility of incarceration for making false statements pursuant to the Motor Carrier Fuel Tax Act. Under the bill, violations of the Act would be a civil infraction with a maximum fine of \$150. The bill has not received a committee hearing.
- **House Bill 4246** would require the Department of Agriculture to affix a sticker on each motor vehicle fuel pump displaying the federal and state motor fuel tax rate in cents per gallon. The bill is in committee.
- **House Bill 4545** requires the Secretary of State to return vehicle registration fees to each county in the proportion of vehicles registered in the county in relation to the number of vehicles currently registered in all Michigan counties. The bill remains in committee.
- **House Bill 4958** amends the Michigan Motor Carrier Act and requires the Workers' Compensation Agency to report, at least weekly, to the Public Service Commission a list of carriers whose workers compensation insurance was lapsed or canceled by the insurance carrier. The bill also requires the Commission to monthly publish a list of carriers who have applied for operating authority and a list of carriers whose authority was approved, suspended, revoked or reinstated. The bill remains in committee.
- **House Bill 5290** requires the Department of Transportation and local road authorities to post on their websites the dates when seasonal weight restrictions are in effect and either or both of the following:
 - a. The names of the highways and streets to which seasonal restrictions do not apply
 - b. An electronic map showing highways and streets to which seasonal restrictions applyThe bill has passed the House and was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee. It awaits passage by the Senate.
- **House Bill 5510** would allow a driver of a truck or truck-tractor to bypass a weight station if the ramp to the weight station is full. The bill awaits committee consideration.

MTA supports **House Bills 5662 and 5663**, which revise provisions concerning commercial vehicle driver training to bring Michigan law into compliance with federal rules that became effective February 7, 2022. The bills have passed the House and await consideration by the Senate Transportation Committee.

MTA also supports **Senate Bill 691**. This legislation would add the crime of committing Organized Retail Crime (ORC) to the racketeering statute allowing for additional penalties to strengthen ORC laws and help curb organized retail crime in Michigan. The legislation amends the Michigan Organized Retail Crime Act (2012) as a predicate offense of racketeering. The bill was passed out of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee on March 3.

Attempting to fight high fuel prices, legislators have introduced several bills designed to address fuel taxes. MTA is monitoring the following bills:

- **House Bill 5971** would eliminate automatic fuel tax increases based on the Consumer Price Index. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Taxation.
- **Senate Bills 984, 985 and 986** would suspend sales and use tax collections on the purchase of motor fuels until April 2023. All were referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.